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THE AGE.
Rheumatic and Neural-
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Roxbury, Mass.
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te Notices.
h of Massachusetts.
Probate Court.
ed in the estate of JOHN RYAN,
late of said deceased, having presented
for allowance,
GARET RYAN, the administratrix
ate of said deceased, has presented
account of her administration
deceased:
to appear at a Probate Court, to
held in said County, on the four-
ber, in said County, on the four-
rent, at nine o'clock in the fore-
if any you have, why the same
ld not be allowed.
And said Margaret Ryan is
ted to give notice to all persons
ation by publishing the same three
Massachusetts Ploughman, printed at
Boston, that the said publication may
necessarily, the last publication to be
before said Court.
WHITE, Esquire, Judge of said
Court, this twenty-fifth day of
March, in the year of our Lord
hundred and sixty-nine.
J. H. COBB, Register.

h of Massachusetts.
Probate Court.
In the estate of MARY E. LELAND
County, deceased, intestate.
On J. FARNSWORTH, the Executor
ament of said deceased, having pre-
ount of his administration of the
appear at a Probate Court to be held
Cambridge, in and for said County,
County, on the first Tuesday of April
the forenoon, at three o'clock,
Farnsworth, is hereby ordered to
ice to all persons interested, by
ished three weeks successively in the
paper printed at Boston, three months
to be two days, at least, before said
RICHARDSON, Esquire, Judge of said
of March, in the year of our Lord
and sixty-nine.
J. H. TYLER, Register.

h of Massachusetts.
Probate Court.
ate of Kingston, in the County of Ply-
LYDIA STONE, late of Kingston, in
nd State of Maine, deceased, testate.
on has been presented to said Court
tain papers purporting to be the last
and testament of said deceased, and
Malon, duly authenticated, for probate;
ereof it is ordered, that the petitioner
to said deceased, or some other person
which said will and petition are filed,
ar at a Probate Court, to be holden at
unty of Middlesex, on the second Tues-
ay of April next, at nine o'clock in the
to appear at a Probate Court, to be
unty of Middlesex, on the second Tues-
o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause,
the same.
is hereby directed to give public no-
citation to all persons interested, by
this citation three weeks successively
d the Massachusetts Ploughman, printed
Boston, that they may appear at the
tention to be thirty days, at least,
A. RICHARDSON, Esquire, Judge of
fifth day of February, in the year
and sixty-nine.
J. H. TYLER, Register.

MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN

DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE, THE FARM, THE GARDEN, THE FIRESIDE, RURAL LIFE, LITERATURE, USEFUL ARTS, NEWS, &c.

AND NEW ENGLAND AGRICULTURE.

JOURNAL OF

VOLUME XXVIII:::::NO. 26. BOSTON, SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 1869. WHOLE NUMBER 1428.

MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN
NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE
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☞ The PLOUGHMAN offers great advantages to advertisers. Its circulation is large, and among the most active and intelligent portion of the community.
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Questions & Answers.

TIME TO CUT TIMBER.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

Will you, or some of your numerous readers, inform me and many others, through your *Ploughman*, the best season of the year to cut timber? It is a question of interest to many, and not easily decided. Can we have the facts or experience, and oblige an INQUIRER.

Bradford, March 10, 1869.

Some say if a tree is cut in the months of October or November, it will be more durable as timber than if cut in spring. Others maintain that cutting in spring or summer will lead to this result, that is, it will make better timber.

We think it depends a good deal upon the object in view. If we want to get a second growth to spring up, it will come more surely and luxuriantly if the trees are cut late in fall or winter than if cut in summer when the trees are in full growth. But if the object is solely to get the most lasting and durable timber, cut in spring or summer, and strip the logs immediately of their bark, thus exposing them to the sun and air so that the surface will soon dry, and the timber will last as long as at any other season. It is important to remove the bark. In the spring the sap is in a fluid state, and the outer portions of the tree are far more watery than in the fall. The bark is softer, and it is easy for insects to penetrate it and deposit their eggs which produce larvæ or worms which soon injure and destroy the wood. Hickory and some of our best varieties of wood will soon become "powder posted." Old hemlock logs and stumps will become filled with large whitish worms. The locust, the beech, and many other trees are apt to be infested in the same way.

But if trees are cut in the fall, the sap which was so watery in spring, has now become wood, the outer surface is comparatively dry and few insects have the power to penetrate it to deposit their eggs, and there will be less danger from leaving the bark on. In fact it is not easily removed at this season.

There are advantages and objections to either season, but when large trees are to be cut and hewn for timber, boards, rails, etc., if they are placed in a position where they will soon dry and become seasoned, we do not believe there is so much preference or advantage in any particular season as is often supposed. You see it is only the outer portions of the trees, the sap-wood, leaves, buds and inner layers of the bark that are really alive and contain true sap, the other portions being dead, or only serving like the heart wood, to sustain the tree in position and give it strength; and it is evident that so far as this dead heart wood, which really constitutes the chief bulk of a large tree, is concerned, it can make no difference whatever in the lasting qualities of timber to be hewn from it, whether it is cut in the new or the old moon, in summer or winter, in spring or fall, provided the sap-wood or the live portion is dried in the shortest possible time, so as to exclude the attacks of insects, and to prevent decay by the moisture which accumulates under the bark when it is not removed.

The lasting qualities of timber depend upon the treatment it receives rather than upon the season of the year when it is cut, and you may take a time when it is most convenient as to labor, or be governed by the use you wish to put the land to, remembering that it will be worth more as sprout land if cut off in fall or winter, because it will start up more vigorously from the stumps, and that the second growth will trouble less, if you want to get rid of it, if cut in spring or summer. In cutting small timber for fence posts, stakes, etc., always take off the bark, for if left on it will absorb moisture to such an extent as to hasten the decay of the wood.—[Ed.

KEEPING SHEEP.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

Will you, or some of your readers inform me through the columns of the *Ploughman*, whether it pays to keep sheep within ten miles of Boston, at the present prices of hay, wool and lambs, and other things considered, and confer a favor on a SUBSCRIBER.

Brookline, Mass., March 6, 1869.

Under ordinary circumstances, we should say, most decidedly, no! Within that distance of a large and good market, where milk or vegetables or small fruits can be sold readily at first hand, there are many more profitable ways of using the land.

Sheep require great care and intelligent management on the part of their owner to make them pay under such circumstances. The breed must be judiciously selected to suit the soil on which they are to be put, and the number of animals carefully balanced so that there shall be no over crowding and consequent deterioration. To make a profit on sheep it is absolutely necessary that a man should know his business and attend carefully to all its details himself, or have an intelligent and responsible servant to follow his directions in every respect, and perform the various processes of feeding and attendance with mechanical regularity. The skill and experience which enables one to see at a glance, when the sheep require a change of pasture, and the kind of change that will suit them, whether a drier or a more succulent food, or one where they will have to work for a living, is indispensable to a flock master.

Sheep want a pretty wide range, and land within the distance you speak of is too expensive to afford that. This we should say without hesitation, in the general rule. Still there may be circumstances [illegible] sheep may be put on temporarily to advantage. On a pasture that has long been stocked with milch cows or other horned cattle, where foul growths have taken possession of the land so as to reduce its feeding capacity below a cow to the acre, or the acre and a half, sheep may go on for two or three years to advantage, the ultimate object being to stock again with dairy cows. Or a few sheep to run with the cows may be profitable with reference to improvement of the land. It is a great convenience and a great saving of money to have a fat lamb at hand for the table at all times without being compelled to buy everything of the butcher. A small flock, equal say to the number of cows, may go upon the pasture with manifest advantage.

But as a general rule the place for sheep is a little farther from the great central markets, and upon rough and rocky, or hilly pastures. They improve the land rapidly, their manure being richer than that of most other farm stock, and they are among the most interesting of farm stock.—[Ed.

DISEASE OF SWINE.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

Have you ever heard of any disease in pigs whereby they lose the use of their hind legs? I have two that have not got up for six weeks; they appear to be very weak and lose flesh. If you have ever heard of the disease, I should be greatly obliged to you for information through the *Ploughman*. There have been several cases round here this winter, some prove fatal.

ALBERT G. KNIGHT.

Byfield, Feb. 14, 1869.

The disease to which our correspondent alludes is generally the result of paralysis, (loss of nervous power.) When the disease occurs, a stimulant should be applied over the loins, as for instance, mustard paste freely applied with considerable friction, repeat for two or three days, if beneficial results follow. If partial recovery only takes place the application of a plaster should be made. Take Burgundy pitch one part, tar four parts, warm over a fire, stirring it until well mixed, and spread it over the loins. It may be well to apply the above to your pigs, adding an eighth or a quarter of an ounce of [illegible] though in the quantity listed so long, the prospect of recovery is not as good as if applied earlier.—[Ed.

ONION CULTURE.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

I should like, through the *Ploughman*, a few directions for raising onion sets. The proper time to sow the seed, manner of sowing and general cultivation, and much oblige a subscriber.

Respectfully, E. R. C.

Roxbury, Mass., March 1, 1869.

The onion needs a mellow or light loamy soil, well pulverized and thoroughly worked. It may, with advantage, be raised on the same soil year after year. All the varieties of the onion, except the top and the potato onion, are raised from seed. The land should be deeply trenched, or spaded, or subsoil ploughed, and the surface levelled off smooth. The seed may be sown as early in spring as the land can be worked and got ready. Sow in drills fourteen inches apart and half an inch deep. When the plants are three or four inches high, thin them out to two inches apart, and in cultivating, be careful not to stir the soil too deep, and not to hoe it up around the bulbs. Onions ripen in August, or early in September, their maturity being indicated by the dead tops. Then throw them out of the ground with a garden rake and let them dry for a few days in the sun, when they will be ready to store or to send to market.

To raise seed, take only the ripest, firmest, and best formed bulbs, and set them in April, in rows two and a half or three feet apart, and about a foot apart in the row, setting the crowns just beneath the surface. When the stalks grow up support them by stakes. The seed will be ripe by August, and the heads must be cut off when they turn brown, or else they will shed the seed. After it is threshed out expose the seed to the sun till dry.

If you have suitable land, a light, warm soil, the sooner it can be got ready for the seed now the better. There are many varieties, but the Danvers, the Large Red, and the Silver Skin, are the most desirable for our latitude.—[Ed.

PRUNING ORNAMENTAL TREES.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

By the time that tree planting and thinning has been attended to, it will be time to think about pruning, as the wound will heal far sooner while the growth is progressing, which should never be attempted by any except those who have had some practice, as the inexperienced are very likely to do more harm than good. A casual glance at our suburban gardens will show the wholesale slaughter practised on the fruit trees. Passing some of these gardens in fall, good healthy shoots from two to five feet long may be seen. (Particularly pears.) Should you pass again in spring you will be likely to see them topped in to six inches, the same as if trimming a hedge, instead of thinning them regularly and forming a good top to the tree.

The shade trees are as barbarously used in many cases, if inexperienced men are sent to prune the trees. On the sides of the streets of our cities or towns, ten to one when you go home to dinner you find the trees whose shade gave such a coolness to your house, and which you had nourished and cherished with such care, completely ruined either for use or beauty, looking very like a flag staff with a small bush on the top. There is not enough planted, but where they have been planted, they should be carefully treated, besides it is nothing uncommon to see a large limb cut off a tree, having from two to three inches of the stump left on the tree, (of course the wound can never heal over), instead of which it should be sawed off as close as possible to the stem, and then smoothly trimmed either with a pruning chisel or sharp knife.

A full set of pruning tools comprises a saw, a hatchet, a large knife, a short handled and a long handled chisel from two and one-half to three inches wide, and a wooden mallet, a file and whetstone. Thus equipped, with experience, there will not be much danger of mistakes. J. C.

March 1869.

We can sympathize with the writer on one point stated in his communication, the mutilation of ornamental trees along the sidewalks. The City Forester of Boston, Mr. Galvin, recently sent around two stupid men to hack up the trees along our streets. In our absence from home they utterly ruined the symmetry and beauty of a choice English [illegible] some ten years ago, and have tended with paternal care. It did not interfere in any respect with the public convenience, and its injury, without even asking, "By your leave" was a piece of wanton cruelty that ought to be complained of. We have determined to cut the tree down level with the ground, and not subject ourselves hereafter to such a barbarous treatment. We do not believe the city has any right to mutilate a tree that is private property, in case it does not encroach upon the convenience of the public, and we hold Mr. Galvin responsible for it.—[Ed

Correspondence.

N. E. MILK PRODUCERS' CONVENTION.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

Being a member of this association I deem it a duty, as well as a privilege, to say a few words in its favor, and of what I suppose to be the objects which it aims to accomplish.

This society was organized some fifteen months ago, and numbers about six hundred members. It is rapidly growing, and will in a short time embrace nearly all of the practical farmers of Massachusetts and New Hampshire, and will be one of the most powerful bodies ever formed in this section of the country for self protection. Its great object is to regulate the price of milk, so that the farmer shall realize a fair compensation for the article.

It is well known that the producer gets for his milk only about one-half what the consumer pays. (I am speaking now of milk that is carried into Boston over the different railroads.) It is bought back in the country for about 4 1-4 cents per quart, on an average through the year, and sold in Boston for about 9 cents per quart.

Now, any business man will say at once that this is not as it should be. The farmers for a long time have felt the need of such a society as the one referred to, for their own protection; so that instead of having the contractor come to him and say, I am going to take your milk this season, and shall give you more or less, as the case may be, we can say to the contractor, when he wants our [illegible] cattle into this country from Europe.

Now, as a farmer and breeder of cattle, although fully recognising and appreciating the vast benefit this country has derived from importations of blood stock from abroad, yet I submit that it is the part of wisdom, and the dictate of reason and prudence, in view of the terrible nature of the disease in question, to discontinue importations of cattle for a time, rather than take the risk of its introduction here.

As our new Secretary of the Treasury is something of a farmer, and an intelligent breeder of cattle, he will doubtless see the importance of withholding permits for importations of cattle for a time, in case his attention is directed to the matter, and I therefore suggest that it is the duty of the agricultural press throughout the country to urge it upon him at once.

With the Texas fever and Pleuro-pneumonia on our hands, we cannot afford to add Rinderpest to the list. It is argued that no disease of the kind has occurred at the Channel Islands, but do not most of the importations from Jersey come via England?

There are rumors also of contemplated importations the present season *direct from the continent*. I say again wait awhile, improve to the utmost with the importations already here, and let the organ of the New England Agricultural Society sound the alarm before it is too late.

If I am correct in regard to the law, petitions to the Secretary of the Treasury, requesting him to prohibit further importations, would be "in order." FARMER.

March 13, 1869.

SURPLUS HONEY BOXES.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

1. What room should be given for storing honey in the surplus boxes? *Answer.* Room enough to retain all the honey that the whole colony will gather in the whole season; more than will be required for the breeding season and winter. I have used hives with surplus honey boxes, varying from twenty, sixty, seventy-five, one hundred and twenty-five and two hundred pounds. My hives with twenty pounds, three of the four gave one swarm each and, no surplus. One gave twelve pounds of surplus and no swarm. Average, three pounds. My colonies in hives of sixty to seventy-five pounds of box room gave an average in two seasons of 1864 and 1867, of sixty-one and four thirteenths pounds and sixty-two and one-half pounds. My hives of one hundred and twenty-five pounds box room, gave in 1867, five hundred pounds from four colonies. Average one hundred and twenty-five pounds. In 1867, a friend placed new swarms of Italian bees in hives of one hundred and fifty and two hundred pounds. Three of them of one hundred and fifty pounds, and the fourth, of two hundred pounds. In 1868, the hive with largest box room gave one hundred and forty-seven pounds surplus, the other three gave one hundred and five, seventy-nine and seventy-five pounds. The largest surplus in hives of one hundred and twenty-five pounds surplus room was sixty-five pounds. The season was a poor one, or the doubled number of colonies in the field greatly lessened their ability to secure surplus. Twenty colonies owned by neighbors within twenty rods, had less than one hundred and forty pounds of surplus from the whole twenty colonies.—Neither of the four colonies gave a swarm.

From the facts stated, I hazard the opinion that hives with two hundred pounds of box room will rarely if ever swarm. Further, that the amount of surplus to the colony will bear some proportion to the amount of box room given them.

2. In what part of the hive should the surplus boxes be placed, to secure the greatest success? *Answer.* Upon the two sides and top of the central, or breeding and wintering apartment for the bees. Some hives have the surplus boxes all upon the top of the breeding apartment. Some have them all upon the sides of the breeding apartment, and one [illegible] I have recently seen, had most of them arranged under the breeding apartment. I think the top and sides of the breeding apartment are the most suitable positions for the surplus boxes. It is the upper edges of the brood comb, and the outer sheets that are used for stores when a colony is placed in a square box. This fact indicates the proper locality for surplus honey boxes. If the sides and top are both used, the hive may be so constructed as to receive boxes for two hundred pounds of surplus, and their outer ends be but six inches from the breeding apartment. If when the top course of boxes is nearly filled it is raised up and another course placed under it with free communication, it will give room for two hundred and sixty-six pounds of surplus. It may seem ludicrously extravagant to prepare box room for two hundred pounds of surplus with opportunity to enlarge to two hundred and sixty-six pounds; but if a colony of natives gives one hundred and seventy-four pounds, as one colony of mine did in 1867, and this with the delay occasioned by the removal of nearly half of the boxes and the substituting of empty boxes in their place, may we not anticipate two hundred pounds from an Italian colony with a prolific queen, often, and two hundred and sixty-six pounds from an extra colony, occasionally?

3. The boxes may be made of the capacity of five or six pounds, or of double the size and half the number. If for sale, the small boxes will be most saleable. If only one or two hives are kept, to supply the family of the keeper, the larger size would not cost as much. They may be used several years.—Expense is generally objected against the large hive. We might as consistently object to the expense of the mowing and reaping machine over the scythe and sickle; or the spinning jenny and power loom over the old wheel and hand loom.

An estimate. A small hive with four five pound boxes, and cap, if well planned and painted, will last good ten years, and swarms will average four years of labor. If we estimate the surplus according to the box room.

The small hive, one hive,	$4.00
The swarm,	5.00
Outlay for twenty pounds of surplus,	8.00
Interest on $8.00 at 7 per cent,	.56
One-tenth cost of hive,	.20
Cost per pound ten cents, five and one half mills,	10 [illegible]

It will be noticed that my four small hives gave but twelve pounds, an average of three pounds. Mr. Quimby, in the first edition of his work, estimates the average of this hive at one dollar's worth. This at twenty cents per pound for honey is five pounds. In the second edition he estimates it at two dollars worth, an average of ten pounds. His last average would require a cost of twenty-one cents and one mill per pound, and at his first average the cost would be forty-two cents and two mills per pound. My four colonies, at the rate they averaged, and two of them gave two swarms, each gave one hundred and twenty-five pounds per hive. Then the cost of one hundred and twenty-five pounds is,—

One hive, at $10.50,	$10.50
One swarm is,	5.00
Amount of outlay for 125 pounds,	15.50
Interest for one year at 7 per cent,	1.05
One-tenth cost of hives,	.30
One-fourth cost of swarm,	1.25
Cost of 125 pounds of surplus,	3.35

Cost of honey per pound, two cents, six four fifths mills. Suppose a colony gives two hundred pounds,—

Hive worth $14.00,	$14.00
Swarm worth	5.00
Outlay for 200 pounds of surplus,	19.00
Interest on outlay,	1.33
One-tenth cost of hive,	1.40
One-fourth cost of swarm,	1.25
Cost of 200 pounds of surplus,	3.98

Cost per pound, one cent ninety-nine one hundredths, 1.99-100

Suppose we estimate two hundred colonies to average ten pounds each, it would require two hundred colonies to give two thousand pounds, one ton of surplus. Ten colonies give it in the largest hive.

Another consideration gives the large hive a great superiority over the small hive.

A colony of bees will consume sixty pounds of honey in one year, for breeding and wintering. If, as my four small hives, they give but an average of three pounds, they consume twenty pounds, to one pound to the keeper. The colony that gives five pounds of surplus, consumes twelve thirteenths of the product, and gives one thirteenth to the keeper. The colony that gives ten pounds of surplus consumes six sevenths of the product and gives one seventh to the keeper. The hive that gives one hundred and twenty-five pounds consumes less than one third, and gives more than two thirds to the keeper. The colony that gives two hundred pounds consumes five pounds less than one fourth, and gives the keeper five pounds more than three fourths of the product of the field. Is it a small matter whether the keeper gets three fourths, one seventh, one thirteenth or one twentieth of the product of his field, and this at greatly diminished expense?

Albany, N. Y. JASPER HAZEN.

A PROLIFIC EWE.

Mr. F. E. Bacon, of Clyde Park, Brookline, had a sheep that lambed February 20th, and again dropped another March 13th; both well formed and now doing well. The ewe is of the Leicester breed.

SHADE IN PASTURES.

Certain trees, like elms, maples, basswood or lindens, willows, etc., interfere with the growth of the grass or crops, their roots being near the surface. Hickories, oaks, pepperidges and beeches, send their roots deep, and grass grows well in their shade. Still we would not cut down the former class. Cows give milk better the more still and quiet they are, and cool shade contributes essentially to their comfort. Cattle will soon fill themselves if the pasturage is good; then they want shade to chew their cuds under, and do proportionally better for it.

— Manure is greatly injured by lying in the rain. It needs shelter as much as the cattle.

CATTLE DISEASE.

RINDERPEST.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

I believe there is a law in existence prohibiting the importation of cattle into the United States from foreign countries, but giving the Secretary of the Treasury discretionary power to allow importations when in his judgment the public safety is not thereby endangered.

Recent accounts from abroad report that terrible scourge — the rinderpest, to have again broken out in Germany, and that it [illegible] cattle into this country from Europe.

Now, as a farmer and breeder of cattle, although fully recognising and appreciating the vast benefit this country has derived from importations of blood stock from abroad, yet I submit that it is the part of wisdom, and the dictate of reason and prudence, in view of the terrible nature of the disease in question, to discontinue importations of cattle for a time, rather than take the risk of its introduction here.

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SURPLUS HONEY BOXES.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

1. What room should be given for storing honey in the surplus boxes? *Answer.* Room enough to retain all the honey that the whole colony will gather in the whole season; more than will be required for the breeding season and winter. I have used hives with surplus honey boxes, varying from twenty, sixty, seventy-five, one hundred and twenty-five and two hundred pounds. My hives with twenty pounds, three of the four gave one swarm each and, no surplus. One gave twelve pounds of surplus and no swarm. Average, three pounds. My colonies in hives of sixty to seventy-five pounds of box room gave an average in two seasons of 1864 and 1867, of sixty-one and four thirteenths pounds and sixty-two and one-half pounds. My hives of one hundred and twenty-five pounds box room, gave in 1867, five hundred pounds from four colonies. Average one hundred and twenty-five pounds. In 1867, a friend placed new swarms of Italian bees in hives of one hundred and fifty and two hundred pounds. Three of them of one hundred and fifty pounds, and the fourth, of two hundred pounds. In 1868, the hive with largest box room gave one hundred and forty-seven pounds surplus, the other three gave one hundred and five, seventy-nine and seventy-five pounds. The largest surplus in hives of one hundred and twenty-five pounds surplus room was sixty-five pounds. The season was a poor one, or the doubled number of colonies in the field greatly lessened their ability to secure surplus. Twenty colonies owned by neighbors within twenty rods, had less than one hundred and forty pounds of surplus from the whole twenty colonies.—Neither of the four colonies gave a swarm.

From the facts stated, I hazard the opinion that hives with two hundred pounds of box room will rarely if ever swarm. Further, that the amount of surplus to the colony will bear some proportion to the amount of box room given them.

2. In what part of the hive should the surplus boxes be placed, to secure the greatest success? *Answer.* Upon the two sides and top of the central, or breeding and wintering apartment for the bees. Some hives have the surplus boxes all upon the top of the breeding apartment. Some have them all upon the sides of the breeding apartment, and one [illegible] I have recently seen, had most of them arranged under the breeding apartment. I think the top and sides of the breeding apartment are the most suitable positions for the surplus boxes. It is the upper edges of the brood comb, and the outer sheets that are used for stores when a colony is placed in a square box. This fact indicates the proper locality for surplus honey boxes. If the sides and top are both used, the hive may be so constructed as to receive boxes for two hundred pounds of surplus, and their outer ends be but six inches from the breeding apartment. If when the top course of boxes is nearly filled it is raised up and another course placed under it with free communication, it will give room for two hundred and sixty-six pounds of surplus. It may seem ludicrously extravagant to prepare box room for two hundred pounds of surplus with opportunity to enlarge to two hundred and sixty-six pounds; but if a colony of natives gives one hundred and seventy-four pounds, as one colony of mine did in 1867, and this with the delay occasioned by the removal of nearly half of the boxes and the substituting of empty boxes in their place, may we not anticipate two hundred pounds from an Italian colony with a prolific queen, often, and two hundred and sixty-six pounds from an extra colony, occasionally?

3. The boxes may be made of the capacity of five or six pounds, or of double the size and half the number. If for sale, the small boxes will be most saleable. If only one or two hives are kept, to supply the family of the keeper, the larger size would not cost as much. They may be used several years.—Expense is generally objected against the large hive. We might as consistently object to the expense of the mowing and reaping machine over the scythe and sickle; or the spinning jenny and power loom over the old wheel and hand loom.

An estimate. A small hive with four five pound boxes, and cap, if well planned and painted, will last good ten years, and swarms will average four years of labor. If we estimate the surplus according to the box room.

The small hive, one hive,	$4.00
The swarm,	5.00
Outlay for twenty pounds of surplus,	8.00
Interest on $8.00 at 7 per cent,	.56
One-tenth cost of hive,	.20
Cost per pound ten cents, five and one half mills,	10 [illegible]

It will be noticed that my four small hives gave but twelve pounds, an average of three pounds. Mr. Quimby, in the first edition of his work, estimates the average of this hive at one dollar's worth. This at twenty cents per pound for honey is five pounds. In the second edition he estimates it at two dollars worth, an average of ten pounds. His last average would require a cost of twenty-one cents and one mill per pound, and at his first average the cost would be forty-two cents and two mills per pound. My four colonies, at the rate they averaged, and two of them gave two swarms, each gave one hundred and twenty-five pounds per hive. Then the cost of one hundred and twenty-five pounds is,—

One hive, at $10.50,	$10.50
One swarm is,	5.00
Amount of outlay for 125 pounds,	15.50
Interest for one year at 7 per cent,	1.05
One-tenth cost of hives,	.30
One-fourth cost of swarm,	1.25
Cost of 125 pounds of surplus,	3.35

Cost of honey per pound, two cents, six four fifths mills. Suppose a colony gives two hundred pounds,—

Hive worth $14.00,	$14.00
Swarm worth	5.00
Outlay for 200 pounds of surplus,	19.00
Interest on outlay,	1.33
One-tenth cost of hive,	1.40
One-fourth cost of swarm,	1.25
Cost of 200 pounds of surplus,	3.98

Cost per pound, one cent ninety-nine one hundredths, 1.99-100

Suppose we estimate two hundred colonies to average ten pounds each, it would require two hundred colonies to give two thousand pounds, one ton of surplus. Ten colonies give it in the largest hive.

Another consideration gives the large hive a great superiority over the small hive.

A colony of bees will consume sixty pounds of honey in one year, for breeding and wintering. If, as my four small hives, they give but an average of three pounds, they consume twenty pounds, to one pound to the keeper. The colony that gives five pounds of surplus, consumes twelve thirteenths of the product, and gives one thirteenth to the keeper. The colony that gives ten pounds of surplus consumes six sevenths of the product and gives one seventh to the keeper. The hive that gives one hundred and twenty-five pounds consumes less than one third, and gives more than two thirds to the keeper. The colony that gives two hundred pounds consumes five pounds less than one fourth, and gives the keeper five pounds more than three fourths of the product of the field. Is it a small matter whether the keeper gets three fourths, one seventh, one thirteenth or one twentieth of the product of his field, and this at greatly diminished expense?

Albany, N. Y. JASPER HAZEN.

A PROLIFIC EWE.

Mr. F. E. Bacon, of Clyde Park, Brookline, had a sheep that lambed February 20th, and again dropped another March 13th; both well formed and now doing well. The ewe is of the Leicester breed.

SHADE IN PASTURES.

Certain trees, like elms, maples, basswood or lindens, willows, etc., interfere with the growth of the grass or crops, their roots being near the surface. Hickories, oaks, pepperidges and beeches, send their roots deep, and grass grows well in their shade. Still we would not cut down the former class. Cows give milk better the more still and quiet they are, and cool shade contributes essentially to their comfort. Cattle will soon fill themselves if the pasturage is good; then they want shade to chew their cuds under, and do proportionally better for it.

— Manure is greatly injured by lying in the rain. It needs shelter as much as the cattle.

THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE OF MASSACHUSETTS.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

Many, perhaps most people, entertain the idea that this institution was organized, and is working to prepare young men for the farm and for farmers only. We often hear persons accosting friends with, "How do you like that school up there, and what do you think of it?" and as often, "I'd send my boy there, but I don't want to make a farmer of him. I want him to learn and do something else."

In answer to this, every one who is acquainted with the workings of the college, (unless he is one of its enemies, for such we are sorry to say it has) always replies "first rate! and I think it just the place for a young man;" and sometimes "I have a son there." We agree with such persons and only wish there were more sons there. But few people are acquainted with the workings of the college, while others are quite ignorant of its existence. Most people have an idea that nothing but agriculture is taught here. Now if all who get an education at this institution were to become farmers after graduating, they would be wasting time to spend so much of it in the pursuit of one study, when they could learn it all at home, during the long evenings, and have their days to work at their business. But an agricultural education would be of little value without a knowledge of other branches, and in fact we believe it impossible to get a good one without such a knowlege.

Because this college is called an Agricultural College, it does not follow that nothing else can be learned here. It is so called to distinguish it from others, and because agriculture is one of its leading branches. Some may, and no doubt many do think it poor economy to support such an institution, but we believe it to be just the place to get a good practical business education, and for that reason it is good policy to sustain it. At this day we want men with such practical and sound business education, to advance the interests and increase the products of our land. We have professional men enough to fill all vacancies, but are short of such men as are referred to above. Most of the studies of our old classical colleges are simply for discipline, and have no practical value, while we think the studies necessarily connected with an Agricultural College the most practical, and by far better for a business education.

The plan adopted for our college we think is [illegible] and recommend nature that has been started in our land, and is therefore not altogether an experiment.—By seeing the faults of others and the results of their experience, the officers of this college have hit nearer the right course, and are not likely to incur as many unnecessary expenses and meet so many difficulties. Of course it is not known what kind of men are to go forth from the college until one or two classes have graduated; but we trust some will be so educated as to prove its value to the State. And if the people would take the pains to inquire into the nature of the college, they would be satisfied of its utility, and that this is the place to send young men for a practical education. A.

MAINE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

The Legislature of Maine, which recently adjourned, passed the following bill to secure harmony of action between the Board and the Maine Agricultural College:

Section 1. The secretary of the Board of Agriculture is hereby constituted a member *ex officio* of the Board of Trustees of the State College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts.

Sect. 2. In addition to the members of the Board of Agriculture as constituted by chapter one hundred eighty-six of the laws of eighteen hundred and sixty, the governor, with advice of the executive council, shall appoint five members at large, of whom two at least shall be from the Faculty of the State College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts. The term during which these shall severally hold office shall be determined in the same manner as the other members.

Sect. 3. The Board of Agriculture shall hold two sessions annually, of not exceeding four days each, one of which shall be held within such convenient distance of the State College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts as will enable the attendance of the students and faculty of said college, so that they may have the advantage of the addresses and discussions before the board. The other session shall be at such time and place as may be from time to time determined by vote from the board.

Sect. 4. Members of the Board of Agriculture shall be paid their actual necessary expenses incurred by travel and attendance at the sessions aforesaid, an exact account of the same being first rendered by each member through a committee of the board and reported thereon. But members shall receive no compensation for time and services rendered.

Sect. 5. The secretary of the Board of Agriculture is hereby authorized to procure such aids and facilities as may be needful to render the sessions useful and profitable to the public, the aggregate expense thereof not to exceed four hundred dollars annually.

Sect. 6. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed.

Sect. 7. This act shall take effect when approved by the governor.

HOW PRUSSIANS DIG POTATOES.

A letter from Schwedt, Prussia, has the following:

In Bradenburg almost the only crops are potatoes and fruit. The potato harvest is just now being gathered, and the fields present an interesting, but, to American eyes, strange sight. Here and there may be

The Ploughman.

BOSTON, SATURDAY, MAR. 27, 1869.

☞ As the *Ploughman* is printed on a double cylinder steam press, and folded by machinery, damaged or imperfect copies of the paper may occasionally escape notice.—When our subscribers receive such papers, we should be glad to have them inform us of the fact, and we will send them perfect copies. We do not intend to send any one a poor copy.

THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE QUESTION

AT THE MASS. LEGISLATURE.

In the House on Monday the resolve in favor of the Agricultural College came up on its third reading, and gave rise to debate, of which we give an abstract.

Mr. Nazro, of Dorchester, moved to amend by making the grant $50,000, instead of $150,000, and to strike out the proviso of the resolve.

Mr. Stone, of Dedham, addressed the House in favor of the claims of the college, quoting largely from Governor Claflin's inaugural address and reports concerning the institution.

Mr. Kent, of Milford, favored the amendments proposed, and called attention to the fact that the original petition of the president of the college was for but $100,000. He argued that the grant should be limited to the present needs of the college, out of consideration for the claims of other interests and the high rate of taxation. He also represented that while the college had received $333,000 in grant, but a very small proportion of private subscriptions had been obtained.

Mr. Kimball, of Boston, objected to the original resolve on the ground that the present legislature should not in this case vote money to be paid in other years.

Mr. Bird, of Walpole, said he should vote for the amendments and then vote against the resolve. He did not believe the college needed the grant, that it was entitled to it, or that it would make a good use of it. He repeated the charges of fraud in the location of the college, and alluded to his action concerning the matter as a member of Governor Andrew's Council.

Mr. Stone, of Dedham, replied to Mr. Bird, reading an opinion of Governor Andrew to support his case, and making a general argument on the importance of agriculture.

Mr. Choate of Newburyport, expressed himself against making any grant to the college at present, not because he regarded the college with disfavor, but on account of the condition of our finances.

Mr. Plunkett, of Pittsfield, opposed the grant on the ground that the college was organized on wrong principles, and was not beneficial to the practical farmers of the State. He said that nineteen-twentieths and perhaps ninety-nine one-hundredths of the farmers of the State could not afford to send their sons to the college for four years; and, further, that young men who had been instructed at the college in the languages and sciences would never return home to hoe and dig.

Mr. Clement, of Dracut, spoke in behalf of the college, and hoped that $50,000 would be granted this year at least.

Mr. Crosby, of Williamsburg, spoke at some length in favor of the passage of the resolve without amendment.

Mr. Ritchie, of Boston, regarded the college as an elephant on the hands of the State which should be got rid of as soon as possible. He therefore moved to recommit the subject with instruction to inquire what disposition can be made of the college, by which the State will be relieved of its care. The motion was subsequently withdrawn.

The question being taken, the amendment offered by Mr. Nazro was adopted, and the resolve ordered to a third reading by 70 to 56.

The Church of England has been disestablishment of the Irish Church was assumed last week. Leading questions of this kind are generally debated only by the strongest men, and are passed in much shorter time than measures of consequence in our Congress. Mr. Gladstone had previously explained and advocated the bill in a long and able speech. Mr. Disraeli, the leader of the opposition, replied to him. He commenced by declaring that this question was one of the most gigantic which had ever been brought before the House, and its consideration demanded much self-control and mutual forbearance. He proceeded to argue that the connection between Church and State was a necessary one; the former rendered the State religious, investing its authority with the highest sanction. This scheme was likely to destroy religious freedom and toleration. It was a complete violation of the rights of private property, corporate and private property being intimately connected.—All acts of spoliation were dangerous; hitherto they had been followed by civil war or something worse. Former confiscation had only enriched land owners. The strength of Ireland was in her connection with England. The majority of the Irish people were discontented, but the settlement of the Church question would be insufficient to quiet their discontent. In conclusion, he expressed a belief that the bill was most dangerous to the country, but he felt he could depend on the prudence and patriotism of Parliament.

On a subsequent day Mr. John Bright delivered a long and able speech in favor of the measure. He said the Esta-lished Church of England had the assent of a large majority of the people of England, but the question was, whether that Church was good also for the people of Ireland. The opponents of this bill had utterly failed to prove that the opinion of the civilized world was hostile to this measure, as had been stated. Protestantism was the only fire that was destroying everything that is good and noble in Ireland, resulting in the absolute disappearance of peace and loyalty. The Irishmen who had emigrated to the United States and Australia were watching anxiously the result of this great question. The entire Fenian project was fed and kept alive by the sympathy of Americans, under the idea that England never did justice to Ireland.

Other gentlemen have spoken on the question, and the Parliament was elected on this issue alone, and returned a majority in favor of the new ministry. There is every reason to suppose that it will pass the Commons.—Its fate in the House of Lords is more uncertain.

A despatch on Wednesday states that the debate was closed on Tuesday night, by Mr. Gladstone, who reviewed the arguments against the bill, and on a motion for the second reading, the House divided with the result of 368 in favor and 250 against, which was received with great cheers.

NEW ENGLAND MECHANICS AND ART ASSOCIATION.—At a meeting of the officers of this Association, held at the Tremont House, Dr. George B. Loring was called to the chair, and Mr. William A. Currier, of Exeter, N. H., acted as secretary. Messrs. A. C. Dennison, of Maine, Walter Harriman, of New Hampshire, A. D. Hagar, of Vermont, Daniel Needham of Massachusetts, Henry A. Warner, of Connecticut, and George Corliss, of Rhode Island, were appointed a committee to report a form of government for the Association, and to make arrangements for an exhibition of the Association at such time as it may be deemed expedient to have one.

☞ A Washington dispatch says Gov. Claflin has written a letter to Hon. Henry L. Dawes, offering him a seat on the bench of the Supreme Court of this State.

ARMY RETRENCHMENT.

The army appropriation bill as it finally passed the last Congress, after much exciting debate, was the most important measure looking towards retrenchment, which came up in that body. It provided for a reduction of the army infantry regiments to twenty-five, and with the cavalry and artillery regiments the whole army will not number over thirty-five. The reduction has been promptly carried out by Gen. Sherman. He has given orders which are or will soon be executed, consolidating the regiments to twenty-five, and in the process it was found that in the previous forty-five regiments there were only enlisted men enough to make twenty-five full regiments, leaving over seven hundred officers without commands.

Of course this important change cannot be effected without causing much dissatisfaction among the officers affected by it. But it meets the approval of Gen. Grant, and Gen. Sherman will be sustained in his prompt and vigorous execution of the law by the sentiment of the people. The law is one of the most important in its saving of expense to the country, and was passed after much pressure on the part of the party of retrenchment. It will be the means and only means of enabling the commander of the army to keep the expenditures within the appropriations, and the saving to the country in this one item alone will be many millions of dollars a year.

LAWYERS AND POLITICIANS.

Senator Sprague, of Rhode Island, took occasion, in the course of his remarks on the tenure of office law, to make a hit at the lawyers and politicians in Congress, and generally in public affairs. The great evil in both Houses of Congress, he said, was that too many of the members were lawyers—men educated only in one line, in one range of ideas and experience, and therefore incompetent to represent faithfully the diverse interests and necessities of the great mass of the people. Of sixty-six members of the Senate forty-five were lawyers, and of the twenty-one remaining, five had received a legal education, and most of the few remaining members were guided and governed by lawyers and their teachings. In the House, the preponderance of members of this profession was even greater than in the Senate. Some States had no other representatives. This was a most unwholesome state of affairs.

He charged politicians with much of the blame of the troubles between North and South. The politicians had never been willing to let the people know the true state of the country. They had failed to warn them of the approach of the late war, and had plunged them into it unprepared. The politicians still adhered to the same blind policy, but he had already done something to let the people know the true condition of the country, and he meant to do more.

SNOW ON THE PACIFIC RAILROAD.

During the last month, travel on the Pacific railroad was very much impeded by heavy drifts of snow in the deep cuttings over the mountains. Obstruction by snow was one of the great problems to be overcome in operating the road, and for more than twenty miles a continuous shed of strong materials has been built over a portion of the road, and it is probable that their experience of the present winter will lead to a further extention of a similar protection. The erection thus far made is sixteen feet wide and high. It is put up in the most substantial manner, all the timbers used being of the best quality to be obtained. The sides are inclosed, and were it not for the fact that daylight penetrates through the interstices between the boards, the whole affair would be very like a huge tunnel. The building is braced together in a most peculiar manner, and is, in addition, firmly bolted to the rocks wherever the road nears the face of a cliff. Where snow slides are to be pass over the building and lodge on the other side. More than 40,000,000 feet of lumber have been used in its construction. It covers an area of more than 1,800,000 square feet, or nearly forty-four acres. Many passengers during the past month have suffered great hardships in consequence of detention by storms in those distant unsettled regions, and it is to be hoped that in future seasons their recurrence will be prevented.

THE CUBAN REBELLION.

The reports by telegraph and by correspondents as to the state of affairs in Cuba are very conflicting, and it is difficult to form any opinion from them of the strength or chances of success of the movement. The population of the island is estimated at 1,370,000, of whom 764,500 are white and 605,500 are co'ored, the latter class including the freed negroes and many Chinese or coolies. More than three-fourths of the whole population are in the western department, where the insurrection has scarcely made its appearance. There are reported almost every day battles or skirmishes between the Spanish troops and the rebels, but in reality nothing of any moment in a military point of view has occurred. The insurgents have destroyed much property and set free many slaves, but the latest reports pronounce the destruction of property as greatly exaggerated. Last Sunday, there was great excitement in Havana on the occasion of the departure of a fleet of transports with a large number of political prisoners aboard, for the penal island of Fernando Po; much sympathy was shown for the exiles, and some disturbances arose, in which two or three men were killed.

No doubt the large majority of the native Cubans sympathize with the rebellion, and would be glad to throw off the hated domination of Spain. The island has been most abominably misgoverned. All the officials are sent out from Spain, and the inhabitants have no voice or vote in the conduct of the affairs of the island. Spain has drawn a revenue from it of about $25,000,000 a year, of which one half goes to pay the expenses. The Spanish officials at present exercise a most arbitrary authority, and thousands of the natives are arrested and imprisoned on the slightest suspicion of their loyalty. The island is governed solely by military force. The rebels however still continue to give the Spaniards a vast amount of trouble, and business and agriculture all over the island suffer immensely. There is a strong pressure brought to bear on our government for recognition, and occasionally we see a statement of aid in men and materials being sent to the revolutionists. Spain will however put forth all her power to suppress the rebellion.

HAYTIAN AFFAIRS.

The Southern State of Hayti, which we understand to be a rebellious organization against what might be called the regular government, after struggling for some time against their opponents, have passed a decree, reciting that in view of the extraordinary events of the past nine months, the State of the south solemnly places itself under the protectorate of the United States. We know very little of the state of affairs which has led to this action. The reports of matters on the island which have come from time to time are not very interesting to civilized people. The strife and struggles of the parties have been carried on too much after the manner of barbarians to interest us much. Every advantage gained by either side has been followed with slaughter and massacre. The latest accounts narrate the wholesale slaughter of men, women and children in cold blood. We do not imagine that our government will be in a hurry to accept the protectorate.

CONGRESS.

Almost the only matter of interest in the Senate, and one which has occupied largely the attention of the country, especially the office seekers, during the past week, is the debate on the bill repealing the tenure of office law. It is well known that President Grant is strongly in favor of repeal, and it is given out that he will make no nominations except to fill vacancies, until repeal. This of course brings the pressure of the multitude of those who wish to serve their country, upon the Senate to urge repeal. Besides the total repeal, there are other plans of settling it before the Senate, one of which is to suspend it eight months, and another to suspend it four years. Many who oppose repeal favor suspension, but it is suggested that the former is putting the President on his probation, and will be as unsatisfactory to him as no action at all. The subject has been up for debate quite a number of days and long speeches have been made on it.

In the House the Indian appropriation bill has been again debated and passed precisely as it passed at the last session, all attempts at amendment having failed. The amount appropriated is $2,418,000. It now goes to the Senate just as it went before, and the same issue made then will doubtless be made again. The difference between the two Houses is about $4,000,000.

There was a great deal of sharp debate on this bill. Mr. Lawrence, a member of the Committee on Appropriations, characterized the whole Indian Bureau as utterly rotten and as a den of thieves. The only question for the House was whether it would root out that den of thieves and save the people from the plunder and robbery that was going on under cover of the treaty making power, or whether it would surrender the legislative power to the treaty making power. He denied that there was any such thing as an Indian treaty. There were contracts made with various Indian tribes, but treaties were conventions between sovereign nations, and it was a farce to apply such a term to tribes of wandering savages.

THE NEW CENTRAL RAILROAD.—The proposed route of the new railroad projected through the centre of the State to Northampton, now pending before the Legislature, is substantially as follows: Starting at Northampton it passes through South Hadley, Granby, Belchertown, down to near the junction of the three rivers in Chicopee, near Palmer, thence through Ware, up the Ware river valley in a northeasterly direction, passing through Hardwick, Barre, Oakham, Rutland, Holden, West Boylston, Sterling Junction, and down through Boylston, Clinton, Berlin, Bolton and Hudson to Sudbury, where the Sudbury and Wayland road, chartered by the Legislature last year, is to be passed over and Boston entered by means of the Fitchburg and Boston road. The route is twenty miles shorter than any other route at present, making the distance from Northampton to Boston 93 miles. It is stated that it is to pass through a portion of the State which is wanting in railroad communications, and, in addition, is the beginning of a great trunk line of communication with the West. Much interest is felt in the project among the towns on the proposed route. The charter asked for is to be not less than three nor more than five million dollars.

DEATH OF COLONEL LAWRENCE.—Colonel Timothy Bigelow Lawrence, consul-general of the United States for Italy, died in the city of Washington quite suddenly on Sunday afternoon. He had but recently returned from abroad, and had gone to Washington to witness the inauguration. On the way to that city he caught cold, which was followed by a malignant sore throat, and soon resulted fatally. He was the second son of the late Hon. Abbott Lawrence of this city and was about 42 years of age. He had a very stormy spring.

— Tennessee planters offer twenty-five per cent more for help this year than last.

— New Haven has voted to loan half a million to the Air Line Railroad, which insures its construction from that city to Middletown and Willimantic.

— A French writer who knows Napoleon well in the Cabinet, says of him that "his resolutions are always slowly formed, and he is not sorry at having them imposed upon him by necessity."

— A man in San Francisco insists that cats breed, or certainly accompany, small pox, and urges the authorities to kill every one, if they would clear the city of its pestilence.

— John Bright says he wonders that there has not been a revolution before this in England, on account of the wrong distribution of the land of the island.

— Spanish agents in Washington make serious complaint because the United States shows such favor to the rebels in Cuba.

— Killing an editor in the South is still considered lawful sport, according to jury findings.

— A laborer recently fell eighty feet into a shaft of the Goodrich mine, in West Stockbridge, and was killed instantly.

— Rochester has held a skating Congress.

— The coolest fellows going are the ice men.

— The elevated railway in New York is so far a success that its managers issue proposals for the sale of its "first mortgage bonds."

— Montreal has been seriously afraid of going under water in consequence of the snows.

— All the nations but Brazil have abolished slavery.

— England is going to reduce its army and navy expenses very largely this year.

— Spain wants to borrow one hundred and twenty-five millions, on nothing more than her very uncertain security.

— New York is complaining of the quality and price of its gas.

— A new word is introduced, to express a man's condition in a state of polygamy; he is said to be "poly wived."

— The Rocky Mountains are said to contain large masses of gold, with a deep river flowing underneath.

— The Alaska Indians are still disposed to make an all the trouble they can, but the blame is laid on our "military."

— All the New York railroads, centering in the city, are told that they would do better to put down the rates to commuters, and put up their accommodations to correspond.

— There are a couple of dozen villagers in Westchester county, that will yet have to be annexed to New York.

— Tennessee is strongly urged and inclined to go into the culture of the sugar beet on a large scale. It will pay a large profit as a crop. Other localities might adopt the suggestion.

— The army is to be consolidated, according to the late orders of General Sherman.

— Sheridan succeeded in making terms of permanent peace with five Indian tribes.

— Very recent occurrences in the House of Commons point to the possibility of England's soon abandoning mail subsidies for ocean steamers altogether, allowing letters to be carried by the swiftest lines of vessels, at the uniform rate of one penny, or two cents, for every half ounce.

— Threats are made of organizing the Cuban slaves into guerrilla bands, for the purpose of harrassing the Spanish troops.

— Government bonds of one denomination have already touched the figures 914 in gold,—the highest yet. Specie payments, at this rate, cannot be very far off.

— Is'nt a frog by the pond side a "riparian owner?"

— The details of the treatment of the passengers on board the Henry Foster emigrant ship, at New York, surpass anything in the line of inhumanity recorded even during the days of the old Inquisition.

— Prices in the White Pine mining region are fabulous and frightful. It's all a man's life is worth, to live there.

— The four hundred Chinese women who landed at San Francisco, tried to smuggle over considerable quantities of opium about their persons.

— Gen. Prim told the Spanish Cortes in his speech to that body, that neither Isabella nor any of her family could ever return to Spain to rule.

— The new postage stamp is the coming thing.

— The number of sheep in the country has decreased ten per centum of late, according to the last Agricultural monthly report at Washington.

— How to ride a velocipede—Straddle a saddle, then paddle and skedaddle.

LEGISLATIVE.

The subject of the liquor laws, and the recommendations of the committee, have been up before the House on one or two occasions the past week, without final action. A motion for reconsideration of the vote rejecting the amendment allowing the sale of ale and cider was refused after debate, by about twelve majority. The committee on claims has had an extended hearing on the application of Mr. Stone, the superintendent of the repairs at the State House, to be heard in vindication of his conduct, and much testimony was introduced in his justification. A hearing has also been had on the subject of a metropolitan police for Boston. The matter of the annexation of Dorchester to Boston has been referred to a special committee.

On Tuesday, the liquor question came up again, and another cider and ale amendment and a proposition to allow sales by druggists, for scientific and medicinal purposes, were debated and rejected. The further consideration of the bill was postponed to Friday.

SHOCKING ACCIDENT.—The Rutland *Herald* records a frightful accident at North Clarendon, Vt., on Monday. On that day Mr. Myron E. Marshall and wife with their only child, two and a half years old, started from their home in Clarendon for Rutland in a sleigh. On arriving at the crossing of the Rutland and Burlington Railroad, Mr. Marshall attempted to drive across the track as a train was approaching, when the engine struck the sleigh and threw Mr. Marshall up in the air, he coming down some sixty feet distant and dashing his head against the depot with such force as to break a board. Although alive at last accounts, he probably cannot recover. Mrs. Marshall was thrown upon the track and fourteen cars passed over her, mangling her in a most shocking manner. The child received a blow upon the back of the head, crushing the skull and causing death.

THE WHITE HOUSE. The presidential mansion has undergone a thorough repair and refitting for the occupation of President Grant. The interior of the building has been very handsomely refitted, repaired and refurnished, and is about to be adorned and embellished with statuary and other works of art in which it has been greatly deficient. Among the prominent works of art are full sized Indian figures in bronze, which are intended to be placed in the hall in the rear of the main entrance; beautiful statuettes of eminent men will be placed in appropriate places in the east room, and the reception rooms. Other portions of the mansion will be decorated in a suitable manner.

THE GRAND FESTIVAL. The action of the Board of Aldermen in granting the use of the common for the Peace Festival building brought out remonstrances from quite a number of the solid men of the city, and the subject was for a few days largely discussed in the newspapers. The aldermen gave a hearing to the remonstrants last Monday, when their arguments were ably presented by Dr. Lothrop, George B. Emerson and others, but they refused to rescind the order. Since this vote, to secure harmony, it has been determined to change the place to St. James Park, on the Back Bay.

THE NEWBURYPORT INCENDIARY. The examination of Leonard Choate, charged with setting the numerous mysterious incendiary fires in Newburyport, was concluded last Monday, after a large amount of circumstantial testimony had been introduced. No evidence was offered by the defence. Mr. Justice Currier in summing up, found there was strong testimony to connect the prisoner with a number of the fires, and he was committed without bail to await the action of the Grand Jury.

NEWS FROM PARAGUAY. The Brazilian *Times*, per steamship Merrimack, mentions the arrival of several Generals from the seat of war. The Brazilian fleet was returned with 18,000 starving Paraguayans.

Lopez is still in the mountains and Minister McMahon is still with him. The Paraguayans who remained when the army left were massacred by scouting parties of Lopez' army.

FIRES. The Baptist church in Methuen, Mass., was discovered to be on fire near the close of the morning services last Sunday, and within an hour was burned to the ground. The Methuen Woollen Company and Methuen Company both furnished water from their hydrants. Two steamers from Lawrence were sent to their assistance. The church was built in 1840. No insurance.

The Waverley Hotel and stables on the grounds of the New Jersey State Agricultural Society at Waverley Park, were burnt last Saturday night. Loss $50,000.

The Waban Mills, owned by Lancey & Porter, and occupied for the manufacture of sheathing paper, situated in Charles River Village, Needham, were totally destroyed by fire Monday morning. The fire was probably incendiary. Total loss $25,000; insured for about three-fourths of its value.

Washington block, Milford, Mass., was considerably damaged by fire, Wednesday morning. A fire occurred in O'Neil's grocery and communicated to Walker's clothing store and Lewis' dry goods' shop. Loss about $5000; insured in the Ætna, of Hartford, Fitchburg Mutual, and other offices.

☞ Rev. Thomas Hill, D. D., late President of Harvard College, has received a call from the Unitarian church at Waltham, over which he was settled for many years.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

☞ JENNY'S GERANIUM, or the Prize Flower of a London Court, is a sweet and touching little story issued by Henry Hoyt, 9 Cornhill.

☞ MY TEN-ROD FARM, or How I Became a Florist, by Mrs. Marla Gilman, is a pleasant and instructive narrative of successful experience in amateur flower culture. Published in pamphlet, by Loring, Boston, price 50 cents.

☞ GODEY'S LADY'S BOOK for April, has some very inviting fashion plates of spring dresses for ladies and children. A tale entitled "Charybdes," by the fascinating Marion Harland, is commenced. The domestic and fancy work department are especially valuable.

☞ THE GALAXY for April, contains the fourth and fifth chapters of Charles Reade's new novel, "Put Yourself in His Place," and among its wealth of literary matter it has continued chapters of Susan Fielding, by Mrs. Edwards;—Our Great Farmers, by C. W. Elliott, and the usual variety of current topics well treated.

☞ CONTENTS OF THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY. Malbone; an Oldport Romance, Part IV, by T. W. Higginson; The Mission of Birds, by Thomas W. Brewer; Autobiography of a Shaker, by F. W. Evans; Run Wild, by Bayard Taylor; A Strange Arrival, by J. W. DeForést; How We Grow in the Great Northwest, by S. H. Gay; A Carpet Bagger in Pennsylvania, by J. T. Trowbridge; The Foe in the Household, Part II, by the author of "Victor and Jacqueline;" Our Inebriates, Classified and Clarified; Doorstep Acquaintance, by W. D. Howells; The Pacific Railroad Open, by Samuel Bowles; A Ride with a Mad Horse in a Freight Car, by W. H. H Murray; To-Day; Reviews and Literary Notices.

☞ ONWARD, Mayne Reid's Magazine, has had a great success for a new enterprise. None know better than he how to meet the popular tastes and demands. The first two numbers, March and April, are all written by Mr. Reid, and very brilliant they are. He announces a drawer full of choice contributions by able writers, to adorn coming numbers. Issued in New York.

☞ PUTNAM'S MONTHLY for April contains twenty articles of sterling merit, by the well known and able corps of contributors. *Putnam's* has a place in the front rank of our monthlies.

☞ OUR YOUNG FOLKS for April presents an attractive series of articles, and among the authors are T. B. Aldrich, E. C. Agassiz, Mrs. Diaz, Edward E. Hale, Epes Sargent, Lucy Larcom, whose names are a guaranty of excellence. It is beautifully printed and illustrated.

READ AND RUN.

— Russia is pushing so vigorously into Central Asia, that she has already come within three hundred miles of India and the English.

— Rhode Island is taking measures to secure a State Farm, of not less than two hundred acres, and to cost not more than twenty-five thousand dollars.

— Dr. Mudd, who has spent nearly four years at the Dry Tortugas on the conviction of being connected with the assassination of President Lincoln, has been pardoned and returned to his farm in Maryland.

— Lumber in New Orleans is cheaper than it was before the war, and a large amount of building is going up in consequence.

— The emancipated Cuban slaves are to be drilled and officered by black natives of Dominica.

— Make room for the hero of the wood pile! An old gentleman of Sanbornton, N. H., named Joshua M. Smith, and seventy years of age, recently cut, split and piled two cords of wood in nine hours, and felt all the better for it. Where are our young men?

— The Fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of Odd Fellowship is observed this week.

— Another Arctic expedition is talked of in New York, with Dr. Hayes at its head.

— To get rid of crime in a measure even, the community is finding out to its serious cost that it will not answer to compromise with thieves, burglars and robbers.

— The best method of railway management has been intelligently discussed of late in the Green Room at the State House.

— Bitter Lake has successfully received the waters of the Mediterranean, through the Suez Canal.

— Lopez, of Paraguay, still defies the alliance under Brazil with a freshly recruited army of four thousand men.

— A Polar Sea expedition is fitting out in Berlin, to sail in June.

— Congress is most urgently asked by the Cuban insurgents to recognize them as belligerents, if not their independence.

— How can a *still* explode without making a *noise?*

— The representative of the Provisional Government in Spain, has been received by the President.

— The last vestiges of a military guard have disappeared from the White House.

— Gen. Sherman is represented as a very up-and-down man in the War Office.

— The revolt in Sing Sing prison appears to have been a stupid affair. A night watchman was strangled to death, and the escaped convicts were all brought back.

— Back hair is to be more immense than ever in Paris, and therefore here, this season.

— A velocipede with but one wheel instead of two, would not be a "wheel without a wheel," but a wheel *without* a wheel,—eh?

— The California Indians escaped the small pox, though it was raging all around them.

— It is mentioned as a remarkable fact that four persons have recently died of old age in Chicago.

— A tract of eighty thousand acres in Louisiana is to be colonized by a firm in Cincinnati.

— John Bright declares that there must be a change in the division of land in England, or serious consequences will follow. Half the population of the island hold no property.

— The Great Peace Jubilee preparations are going forward very fast and favorably.

— The newly proposed President for Harvard College, Mr. C. W. Elliott, is but thirty-eight years old, and quite acceptable to Young America.

— Velocipede races are the rage every where,—almost as thick as the human race.

— The Boston and Maine railroad carried over three and a quarter million of passengers last year.

— The first bill signed by President Grant was that for strengthening the public credit.

— Gladstone was three hours and a quarter making his speech for the disestablishment of the Irish Church.

— The price of the London *Times* is to be reduced from three to two pence.

— Cabs are now building in Concord, to carry passengers from the Erie railroad depot in New York to any part of the city, for half a dollar.

— The South generally is prepared to pay higher prices for labor this spring.

— Divorces appear to be a large crop in some of the Connecticut courts.

— The Pope proposes to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of his life as a priest, on the 11th of April.

— The only winter we have had is what has come this spring.

— How to get your garden trenched for nothing—tell somebody you have dug up a bag of dollars in it.

— New York finds itself pleased swine from China on its piers, and puts them into the pickling very strong this spring.

Latest Foreign News.

BY TELEGRAPH.

LONDON, March 18.—A strong protest from Ireland against Mr. Gladstone's bill for the disestablishment of the Irish Church has been published. It is signed by over one thousand Irish noblemen and landowners.

The cotton spinners of Preston have struck on account of the proposed reduction in their wages.

Bishop Macrae was consecrated at Cape Town on the 25th of January. Protests against his consecration have been received from the diocese of Cape Town and Natal.

In the House of Peers, this evening, Lord Oray and Lord Cairns condemned the policy of the Government in releasing the Fenian convicts.

Earl Granville, Colonial Secretary, explained that the reasons given by their friends for releasing Fenians, were acts of personal hospitality, not demonstrations of hostility to the Government.

It is reported that Rigo Ranghabe, the present Greek Minister to Washington, has been appointed Minister to Constantinople.

The governments of France and Belgium are arranging a conference for the discussion of the mutual commercial interest of the two countries, and to consider what modifications may be made in the recent law passed by the Belgian Parliament prohibiting the railways of Belgium from being transferred to foreign companies.

MADRID, March 18. — Celestine Olozaga, a nephew of Don Solastina Olozaga, late Minister to Paris, was killed yesterday in a duel. He was a member of the Constituent Cortes, and one of its secretaries.

LONDON, March 19.—The National Steamship Company have made an offer to carry the mails between Great Britain and the United States for one penny per ounce.

MADRID, March 19.—The troubles in Andalusia still continue. At Xerez De La Frontera, the opposition to the military conscription culminated in a battle between the insurgents and troops. The engagement was of short duration, but was very fierce. The insurgents were defeated and routed; 600 of them were taken prisoners. Medmoron, at the head of 900 Carlists, had appeared at Patma, in the mountains near Almeria. Troops have been despatched to that neighborhood.

VIENNA, March 19.—A Royal Decree has just been published, establishing trial by jury for offences against the press laws.

BERLIN, March 19.—Dr. Peterman is preparing to send out a new Polar expedition, which will sail in June.

ALEXANDRIA, March 19.—The Mahmoudieh Canal was opened to-day, and the waters flowed into Bitter Lake through the Suez Canal.

YOKOHAMA, Feb. 13, via. LONDON, March 19. —The Foreign Ministers have announced the termination of the civil war in Japan and withdrawn their proclamation of neutrality.

PARIS, March 19.—Advices from Rio Janeiro state that Lopez has collected an army of 4000 Paraguayans at Grasse, a town in the interior.

PARIS, March 21.—In the Corps Legislatif yesterday, March 20, Marshal Niel, Minister of War, urged the completion of the reorganization of the army.—Peace, he said, was secure, but France would not tolerate a government which was not fully prepared to avenge an insult if offered.

The Budget report considers the present situation of Europe as eminently peaceful.

MADRID, March 21.—During the recent fights at the barricade in Xeres, De La Frontera, over 100 soldiers were killed and wounded. The loss of the citizens was heavy, but the number of their killed is not known.

LONDON, March 22.—In the House of Commons to-day, Mr. Fortescue, chief secretary for Ireland, said that the Government did not intend to extend clemency to any other Fenians now in prison. The debate on the Irish church bill was resumed. Sir Roundell Palmer made a speech favoring disestablishment, but opposing disendowment, and said he would propose and urge a modification of the bill in committee. Sir John Duke Coleridge, solicitor general, advocated the bill, approving it in all its principles.

MADRID, March 22.—A popular demonstration has been made at Barcelona in favor of free trade.

PESTH, March 22.—A majority of the elections for the Hungarian parliament have so far resulted in the election of the Deak party.

MADRID, March 23.—In the Constituent Cortes a propo-ition made by Senor Orense to disqualify persons holding office in the service of the State from sitting as Representatives in the Assembly, was adopted, though strongly opposed by the Government.

PARIS, March 23.—In the Corps Legislatif yesterday, an army contingent of 100,000 men was required by the Government and was voted. The session was then adjourned to the 31st instant.

Madame La Marquise De La Valette, wife of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, is dead.

The French and Belgian journals publish the preliminaries of the conference between France and Belgium to harmonize their mutual commercial interests.

LONDON, March 23.—The strike of the cotton operatives, which commenced at Preston, is spreading to other parts of the country. In Glasgow it has become general, and several mills have partially suspended operations for want of hands.

In the House of Commons this evening the committee on mail service to the United States submitted a report declining to sanction contracts made by Government with the Cunard and Inman steamship lines for carrying the mail to New York on present terms.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

WILLIAM CLAFLIN,

GOVERNOR:

A PROCLAMATION

FOR A DAY OF

With the advice and consent of the Council, I hereby appoint THURSDAY, the eighth day of April next, to be observed as a day of Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer.

It was the custom of the fathers to appoint the Annual Fast, not as an unmeaning ceremony for a single day, but as a season when, surrounded by pure religious influences down by hardship and toil, they should resort to the Source of all strength for comfort and a renewal of hope.

There may be a difference of views as to the necessity of these observances, but it is still a general conviction of the people that they are fit and proper, as expressing dependence and penitence toward God, and as tending to confirm that faith in an overruling Providence, which, while it lifts the soul above the changes of time, reconciles to the unfailing possessions and joys of the life to come.

With humble reverence, and with deep contrition of heart, let the people assemble in their respective houses of worship, and, asking forgiveness of their sins and unfaithfulness in the past implore the blessing of God upon the Commonwealth. Let us unitedly entreat that He may grant to its cherished institutions of religion, education and public charity, enlargement and increased usefulness:

That He may continue to bestow health and all the bounties of His Providence upon our families:

That, through faith in Christ, and the consoling hope of eternal life, He may restore peace and joy to homes made desolate and hearts made sad by bereavement:

That He may dispose those who are favored with an abundance of His gifts, to deeds of charity and beneficence:

That He may crown with success the labors of the field, the workshop, and the marts of trade, and in commercial and professional life:

That He may realize to us the blessings of liberty, good order and good government, for which we have hoped so long:

That He may incline all so to walk in His fear and in obedience to His will, as to secure His favor, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Given at the Council Chamber in Boston, this fifth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine, and of the independence of the United States of America the ninety-third. WILLIAM CLAFLIN.

By His Excellency the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Council,

OLIVER WARNER, *Secretary.*

God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

THE POTATO TRADE.—In Maine the potato trade never was so brisk as it is now—farmers bringing the tubers to the central markets from distances running from three to forty miles. The prices are from sixty to sixty-eight cents per bushel, and they are mostly shipped for the Boston market. The supply is unusually large, and the quality much better than earlier in the season, when, judging by what it was here, it could hardly be worse.

☞ Parties about getting Sewing Machines should visit the salesroom of the American Button Hole and Sewing Machine, 289 Washington Street, Boston. See advertisement.

LOSS OF TEETH.—The teeth often fall out without apparent cause. It is occasioned frequently by the use of charcoal and imperfectly powdered substances, which make the gums recede from the teeth, thus producing the trouble. "*Rowen's Camphorated Sapanaceous Dentifrice*" has been in use several years, and universally approved. Made only by John L. Brown & Sons, and sold by most dealers at 25 cents.

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MARRIAGES.

In Dorchester, March 22, by Rev. J. O. Means of Boston Highlands, Mr. Benjamin B. Leman to Miss Eliza F. Howard.

In Waltham, March 21, by Rev. Dr. Thomas Worcester, Caspar W. Briggs of Norton, to Miss Annie C., daughter of George Phinney, editor Waltham Free Press.

In Cohasset, March 18, by Rev. C. R. Fitts, Charles F. Bacon, Esq., of Jersey City, N. J., to Miss Mary H. Kimball of C.

In Danvers, March 14, by Rev. James Fletcher, Mr. Eben G. Berry to Mrs. Sarah Putnam Page, only daughter of the late Abel Nichols, of Danvers.

In Newburyport, March 18, by Rev. John Capen, Mr. George K. Coffin of Newburyport, to Mrs. Hattie Puffer of Colchester, Conn.; March 18, by Rev. Randolph Campbell, Alexander Bragg, Jr., to Mary Louise, eldest daughter of E. Porter Seeley, all of N.

In West Amesbury, March 17, by Rev. Mr. Gregory, Mr. George A. Pearson of Newburyport, to Miss Amanda O. Weymouth of West Amesbury.

DEATHS.

In this city, March 22, Jonas Ball, of the firm of Henry Callender & Co.

March 23, Mrs. Mary S. Farrar, 82.

In East Boston, March 22, Sally Fletcher, 84.

In Charlestown, March 22, Mrs. Lydia J. Burridge, widow of the late Joseph Burridge, 77.

In Longwood, Brookline, March 23, Jacob Howe, 81.

In Hyde Park, March 21, Charlotte, wife of Zenas Allen, 63 yrs.

In Peabody, March 12, Major Amos King, 81 years 12 days. He was Lieutenant of a company in the war of 1812.

In Milton, March 14, Sarah Abbe Alden, 2 yrs 11 mos.

In Belmont, March 19, Eliza Johnson, wife of Thomas C. Morton, 33 yrs 4 mos.

In Seymour, March 20, Hezekiah M. Rich of Nashua, N. H., 66 yrs 10 mos.

In New England Village, March 15, Asa F. Smith, 59.

In Chelsea, March 21, Lurena L. Morrill, 34 yrs 4 mos.

In Newbury, March 21, Noah Johnson Noyes, 97 yrs 5 months.

In Newburyport, Miss Mary M. Bartlett, 68.

In Lexington, March 24, Emelia Meriam, daughter of the late Ruffin Meriam, 68.

In Washington, March 21, suddenly, Colonel T. Bigelow Lawrence, son of the late Hon. Abbott Lawrence, 42.

LARGE VOLUME would not contain the mass of testimony which has accumulated in favor of *Winter's Compound of Cherry* as a safe, prudent, and reliable remedy in curing coughs, colds, and pulmonary diseases. Many of the cures are truly wonderful. 2

GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.

BANKERS AND BROKERS, 50 STATE STREET,

THURSDAY, Mar. 25.

GOLD BOUGHT—SOLD "FLAT," NO INTEREST.

6s	of 1881, 6 ₩ cent.	Int. payable	Jan. and July.		116
5-20s	1862,	do	do	May and Nov.	118
5-20s	1864,	do	do	do	114
5-20s	1865,	do	do	do	116
New	1865,	do	do	Jan. and July.	113
do	1867,	do	do	do	113
do	1868,	do	do	do	113
10-40		do	do	March and Sept.	109

SPECIAL NOTICES.

CAUTION TO PARENTS.

Whereas it has been discovered that a number of youths from the country who have been furnished with

New Advertisements.

CHOICE GARDEN SEEDS.

DEWING'S TURNIP BLOOD BEET.
GEN. GRANT TOMATO.
STONE MASON'S CABBAGE.
CARTER'S FIRST CROP PEAS.
EARLY DAN O'ROURKE PEAS.
W. LEAN'S LITTLE GEM PEAS.
McLEAN'S ADVANCER PEAS.
EARLY ROSE POTATOES.
—ALSO—
An assortment of choice annual FLOWER SEEDS, containing twenty-five varieties for $1.00.
An assortment of twelve varieties for 50 cents.
And a full assortment of GARDEN, FLOWER, and FIELD GRASS SEEDS and AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS, at the lowest cash prices, wholesale or retail. Orders by mail or Express will receive prompt attention.

PARKER, GANNETT & OSGOOD,
No. 49, North Market Street,
mar27 2t Boston, Mass.

Pure Blood Stock for Sale.

I AM now ready to fill orders for ALDERNEY CALVES of both sexes, from dams that have no superior, if equal, in the country. Also Calves got by Comet, aged 3, and imported BERKSHIRE PIGS, of the Jersey, SUFFOLK-SHEPHERD DOGS, FOWLS, WHITE DORKINGS, BLACK SPANISH, GRAY and BUFF KING, BLACK and MUSCOVY DUCKS. BRAHMAS, AYLESBURY and MUSCOVY DUCKS. for Eggs from some for Hatching.

WM. CROZIER,
"Beacon Stock Farm,"
mar27-4t Northport, Long Island, N. Y.

Goodale Pear.

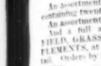
A MAINE SEEDLING now first disseminated. For ten years it has shown more excellence in tree and fruit combined, than any other. Believed to be destined to great celebrity. Scions for sale, lasting till Bearer d'Anjou, commenced by Hon. Horace Greeley. See Reports. Two scions, securely packed, sent post paid for $1.00. Five for $2.00. Fifteen for $5. Address

S. L. GOODALE,
Saco, Maine.
mar27-4t Secretary State Board of Agriculture.

Improved Shorthorns for Sale,

A Two YOUNG BULLS, also, HEIFERS and CALVES.
Brookline, Mass., March 1869. JOSEPH ESTABROOK. mh27-4t

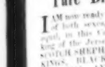
Farm for Sale,



about 13 miles from Boston, containing about 50 acres of the most excellent land. The buildings consist of a nearly new, and two story House, Barn, Wagon House, and two other Houses, all in the best of repair. The location is very pleasant and in a healthy neighborhood. This is a rare chance, and worthy the attention of a person looking for a good Farm.

Apply to WM. A. LANE,
mar27-3t Bedford, Mass.

Farm for Sale.



A Farm in Peabody, embracing between 60 and 70 acres of land, well divided into Pasture, Tillage and Woodland, all of which is in a good state of cultivation, and contains a well established milk route. This farm is in communication with the centre of the city by the Lynn and Peabody Horse Railroad, and to the neighboring cities of Salem, Lynn and Boston by the latter. The buildings consist of a nearly new, and very convenient two story House, Barn, Wagon House, Sheds, &c., all in the best of repair. The location is very pleasant and in a healthy neighborhood. This is a rare chance, and worthy the attention of a person looking for a good Farm.

Apply to WM. A. LANE,
mar27-3t Bedford, Mass.

Farm for Sale at a Bargain.

The northeast part of Carlisle, a fine farm of about 100 acres, well fenced with stone walls, well watered with springs, 7 miles from Lowell, and 14 miles from South Chelmsford village, with two orchards, containing about 200 apple trees, about 25 miles. The land is suitable for mowing, tillage, pasturing and wood-land, and is well adapted to keep sheep, as it has much meadow. There is a stream of water through the farm. Also two wells of excellent water, one in the house and the barn, with good cellars. A good two story House with L, seven finished rooms, nearly new. Also, 36x50, well finished, with other outbuildings. The land is offered for sale cheap, and will bear a good manure. Farm sold on account of ill health of owner. Price $2,450. Terms $1,500 cash.

JAMES Q. SAWYER.
mar27-3t 4 Scollays' Building. mh27-4t

Milk and Fruit Farm for Sale.

The desirable Farm of Edward Harwood, and cost in the easterly part of Lowell, well watered, about 75 acres of wood, and a half acres Peach, Pear and Apple Trees, Grape Vines, Strawberries, &c., from seventy-five to choice, are in good bearing order. Price, $6,000. The wood will warrant it the

BEST FERTILIZER IN THE MARKET.
Also for sale all kinds of
AGRICULTURAL TOOLS & SEED.
WHITTEMORE, BELCHER & CO.,
mar 27 34 Merchants Row, Boston.
FACTORY, CHICOPEE FALLS.

Brooklyn White Lead.

COMPANY ESTABLISHED IN 1820.
This Lead is warranted *strictly pure*, and is unsurpassed for body and covering qualities.
For sale by the Company's Agents,
FOLSOM & DEARBORN,
Wholesale Dealers in PAINTS and OILS,
mh27-12t 9 & 10 India Street, Boston.

Jos. Breck & Son,

OFFER for sale the following choice varieties of Peas:

EXTRA EARLY.
Carleton, Dickson's First and Best, Carter's First Crop, Dan O'Rourke, McLean's Little Gem, Tom Thumb.
EARLY.
McLean's Advancer, Champion of England, Blue Imperial.
LATE.
Wrinkled Marrowfat, Black Eye Marrowfat, British Queen, and all other desirable varieties wholesale and retail.
mh27-1t JOS. BRECK & SON.
31 & 32 North Market Street.

KITTATINNY BLACKBERRY PLANTS,

Dunn's, first quality $10 per hundred. Wilson, Philadelphia, etc., greatly reduced in prices, Isaac Smith, Adirondack, and other vines, $8 per 100. Large strawberry plants, a fine new variety $3 per 100. Large Tomato, post paid by mail 10c per 1 oz., White, large, smooth, round, thick flesh 25c per oz. Improved Asparagus, best large, 25c per 1 oz., Imperial Cabbage Lettuce, very fine, 10c per 1 oz. S. MARLOW MOON, Morrisville, Pa. mch27-1t*

A PRIME HAND DRILL

"THE PLANET" is simple, complete and efficient. Sows perfectly, Grasses, Fertilizers, Peas, Turnips and all other seeds. Descriptive circulars of SAMUEL C. ALLEN, mch27 4t Gardiner, Me.

1,000,000 STRAWBERRY PLANTS.

Leading varieties—Downer's, Wilson's, Hovey's, etc., $4 per hundred. Blackberry and Grape Vines, Pear and Apple Trees, all at greatly reduced prices. All orders to be addressed to

E. W. SHAW,
mch27-3t Carver, Mass.

Plants packed in moss and delivered to express office free of charge. Send for catalogues with engravings.

New Advertisements.

SEED PEAS! SEED PEAS!

WE OFFER TO
FARMERS, GARDENERS,
—AND—
COUNTRY TRADERS,
A large and well grown stock of
AMERICAN AND IMPORTED
SEED PEAS,
Comprising among others the following popular sorts:
McLEAN'S ADVANCER,
the best Pea yet introduced:

Carter's Extra Early,	McLean's Little Gem,
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Early Dan O'Rourke,	Champion of England,
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Bishop's Dwarf,	Napoleon,
Eatable Podded Sugar,	Saxton's Prolific Long Pod.

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QUINCY HALL,
Over Quincy Market, Boston.
AMES PLOW COMPANY.
☞ Other choice Seeds in great variety, at wholesale and retail. mar27-4t

LAKE SUPERIOR
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MISSISSIPPI R. R. CO.
Seven per Cent Bonds.

THIRTY YEARS TO RUN.

Principal and Interest Payable in Gold,
FREE OF U. S. TAX.

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They are a First Mortgage sinking Fund Bond, secured by a land grant of 1,682,000 acres, and by the railroad, its rolling stock, and the franchises of the Company, an investment yielding in currency

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THE WANDO FERTILIZER
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PHOSPHATE,

Manufactured by the
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OF CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA.

From the Phosphate beds in the vicinity of that city, are now offered for sale by

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Where samples can be seen and pamphlets in regard to them be obtained. mar27-6t

JOSEPH BRECK & SON,
IMPORTERS, GROWERS & DEALERS
—IN—
GARDEN,
Grass and Field Seeds,
AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS
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MACHINES,
Would invite the attention of all to their
Large and Carefully Selected Stock,
FOR
The Spring of 1869.
Our assortments of
VEGETABLE SEED,
Comprises every variety worthy of cultivation.
OUR FLOWER SEED DEPARTMENT,
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Gibbs' Patent Cylinder Plough,
The Celebrated Buckeye Mower,
Wills' Improved Seed Sower,
Nourse's Premium Horse Hoe,
And all the latest Improved Implements and Machines.
—ALSO—
Shovels, Forks, Hoes, Rakes, &c. &c., Fertilizers of all kinds, wholesale and retail, at
JOSEPH BRECK & SON'S,
Nos. 51 & 52 North Market St., Boston.
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OLIVER'S IRON PLOUGH, which has gained the highest premiums and which took the First premium at other Ploughing Matches, and at the Worcester Society's Fair, we will warrant to give any purchaser satisfaction. This is what Mr. Flint says of it in the Ploughman.

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I have seen the Iron Plough tried in a variety of soils, and find it an admirable work. It appears to have a wide range of adaptation than most other kinds, and is high recommendation wherever it CHAS. L. FLINT,
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A valuable implement, and one that no farmer should be without, and one that we will guarantee to be satisfactory. It pulverizes stubbles, &c., completely, yields only five small inches, is of superior quality, when cooked is dry, white and mealy. It ripens two weeks earlier than the Early Goodrich, well ripened tubers having been grown in eight weeks. The *genuine* seed from original sources, may be obtained at the lowest cash prices, wholesale or retail of

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Bresee's Prolific, or No. 2.

THIS remarkable variety originated with Albert Bresee, Esq., of Rubbardston, Vt., who was also the originator of the justly celebrated *Early Rose*, *both varieties being produced from the same seed ball of the* Garnet Chili. The vines of *Bresee's Prolific* are of medium height, quite bushy, somewhat spreading; large leaves; have produced no seed balls; tubers large, regular in shape, and very smooth, slightly oblong, somewhat flattened, skin fine and delicate, tinged to be russeted eyes but little depressed, and slightly pinkish; flesh white; cooks quickly, is very mealy, and of excellent quality; yield very large, often exceeding *a hundred fold*; matures about three weeks later than the Early Rose, and will prove a most valuable variety for field culture. A silver medal was awarded to this variety at the annual exhibition of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society last September. Price $2.00 per pound by mail, post paid. Price given to trade on application.

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1000 AGENTS to sell "ORA, THE LOST WIFE," by Mrs. Bella Z. Spencer, author of "Tried and True." This is the best selling Book now offered Agents. It has been published but four days, and hundreds of orders are already reported.

One Agent reports twenty-three copies sold in one day. Another twenty-two, and still another fifteen. Everybody wants it. For full particulars, apply to or address,

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Quarter of a Million Pianists

Are indebted to Richardson's New Method for their ability to play well.

THIS book continues to be the Standard Method of A. Piano Instruction throughout the country. Its Easy Lessons, Pleasing Exercises, and Charming Recreations, have made it extremely popular, while its rare adaptation to all grades of advancement causes it to be not only valuable to a person during his early studies but for a lifetime. Price $3 75. Sent post paid. OLIVER DITSON & CO., Publishers, 277 Washington St., Boston. CHAS. H. DITSON & CO., 711 Broadway, New York. mh27

10 A DAY

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BY SUBSCRIBING to the MUSICAL INSTRUCTOR, a large quarto monthly musical magazine, you can obtain during every year over

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LADIES, A BEAUTIFUL DRESS PATTERN FREE to all who will send us our Agent. No Gift Enterprise or Humbug. Address, with stamp, C. E. CHAPMAN & CO., Williamsburgh, N. Y. mh27-2t

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No. 39 State Street, Boston, and
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Office, No. 39 State Street, Boston.
IN LEXINGTON.

The Desirable Farm of 41 Acres, with Two-story House of Ten Rooms, large Barn, Carriage, Tool and Ice Houses, orchard, and for many years occupied and improved by Mr. Josiah Smith, the Veteran Fifer of Two Generations.
On WEDNESDAY, March 31st, instant, at 2 o'clock, P. M., on the premises.

Will be sold without reserve, and on liberal terms of payment, this valuable Farm, located in the south part of Lexington, on the Concord and Cambridge Turnpike, next westerly to the farm of Mr. Peter Wellington, 14 miles from East Lexington Village, and 21 miles from Waltham.

The buildings are in good repair, roomy and well arranged, situated on high ground, with pleasant rural surroundings. The land is suitably divided into mowing, tillage and pasture, well fenced and watered.

Sale positive. Terms easy. $100 to be paid by purchaser at time and place of sale. To examine or for further particulars apply to MR. SMITH, at residence of Charles Clark, Esq., Waltham, or to the Auctioneer, at office of Cowles, Brown & Co., No. 39 State Street, Boston. mh20-2t

Farming Stock and Tools.

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, Pew in Second Congregational Church, and oak cord Wood, at residence of Mr. Winslow Fuller, on Waltham Street, in West Newton, at Auction, on

On TUESDAY, April 6, 1869, at One o'clock, P. M., will be sold without reserve, 12 EXTRA GOOD COWS, part new milch; buy Mare, 6 years old, sound and kind, can trot 12 miles an hour, and is one of the best family horses in the state; black Mare, 7 years old, a good roadster and a capital saddle horse; 2 single Harnesses, double do., cart do.; Beach Wagon; light Express Wagon; Cart, Sled, Sleigh, Hay Cutter, Seed Sower, Hot-bed Sash, Grindstone, together with the usual variety of Farming Tools; 2 or 3 barrels Cider Vinegar; about 15 cords of good oak Wood.

Also, Household Furniture, consisting of Carpets, Chamber Sets, Chairs, Stoves, &c. Also, Pew No. 36, Broad Aisle, 2d Congregational Church, West Newton.

TERMS, CASH. mh27-2t

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SHOULD send 35 cents for a specimen copy of the Pictorial and best Music Book for Sabbath Schools, J. P. Webster, entitled the **SIGNET RING**, a choice, collection (189 pages) of the most beautiful hymns and tunes, arranged for solos, duets, trios, and choruses, all but six of which were composed expressly for this work. Published by LYON & HEALY, Clark and Washington Streets, Chicago. mh27-2t

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—AND—
BONE MEAL,

Warranted Superior to any that can be found elsewhere.
For sale in quantities to suit purchasers, at the
NORTHBORO' BONE MILL,
NORTHBORO', MASS.
For sale by
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feb27-13t

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BEST QUALITY—MANUFACTURED BY
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WITH POLLARD & SABIN,
Great Labor Saving Machine for the Million.
LYMAN'S NEW PATENT
Weed Annihilator.

By actual test the most practical, useful, cheap and reliable Weed Destroyer known, combining *strength, durability*, great ease in working, doing the work of two or more tools of the ordinary oldstyles now in use, with such great ease and rapidity, cutting from 3 to 9 inches in width, with the steel tempered adjustable knives. Send for Circular.

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25 BARRELS of these celebrated Potatoes, accured from Dr. Grant, on hand. Our earliest, best in quality, and most productive potato in cultivation; they yielded last year, in numerous instances, *more than one hundred fold*, and some report having grown a barrel from a single pound.

CASH ORDERS executed at the following prices: One pound by mail, post paid, $2.00; by express (15 lbs) 83.00; half bushel $6.00; one bushel (60 lbs) $15.00; one barrel (165 lbs) $40.00, freight paid by purchaser. No charge for bags. Terms cash.

Also, EARLY GOODRICH, $4.00 per barrel; HARRISON, $4.50 per barrel; EARLY ORNGAHS, $5.00, new WHITE PEACH BLOW, $4.50, and many other varieties, for which see our NEW ILLUSTRATED GUIDE and CATALOGUE of SEEDS, of 128 pages, containing all the new, rare, and popular Vegetable, Agricultural and Flower Seeds, new Gladiolus, &c. &c., a copy of which will be mailed to all applicants.

HOVEY & CO.,
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500 DOZEN Ely, Balch, Batchelder, and Van Ornum MANURE and SPADING FORKS. For sale, low, by JOSEPH BRECK & SON'S, Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store, Nos. 51 North Market St., and 46 Merchants Row, Boston. mar13-3t

Amateur Cultivator's Guide

TO THE KITCHEN AND FLOWER GARDEN. The 23d edition of this popular and useful work, which has met with so great favor in the past, much enlarged and improved, containing descriptive lists of all Flower and Garden Seeds worthy of cultivation, embracing over 2500 varieties, to which is added all the novelties in Flowers and Vegetables for 1869; also 200 varieties of the choicest French Hybrid Gladiolus.

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"Please accept my thanks for your 'Guide.' I think you ought to call it 'The Garden Companion.' It is at once very useful and confidently arranged; a sort of ready reference book, very ornamentally got up; one of those few books I find fitted for any table; often wanted and always at hand."

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FAMILY FLOUR,
At Reduced Prices,
AT THE
FAMILY FLOUR STORE,
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The very choicest St. Louis Flour, (equal to anything in the market,) - - $13.00
Choice St. Louis Flour, - - - $12.00
Choice Michigan do, $10.50 and $11.50
Extra Family do, - $7.00 to $10.00

DELIVERED FREE IN BOSTON AND VICINITY.

We warrant every barrel to prove as represented, or it can be returned, and the money will be refunded.

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Eggs for Hatching,

FROM superior Pea Comb light BRAHMAS. Price, one dozen, $1.25; five dozen, $5.00.
Orders promptly filled and egg carefully packed.

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200 DOZEN PARTRIDGE MANURE FORKS, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12 Pronged, including new Patterns. For sale at PARKER, GANNETT & OSGOOD'S Agricultural Seed Store, Nos. 49 North Market St., and 46 Merchants Row, Boston. mar13-3t

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PLANT ONLY THE BEST. PLANT THE
"Early Rose,"
"Early Goodrich,"
"Harrison."

These varieties are hardy, vigorous, productive, and free from disease; they are preferable to all others to grow for profit. Don't wait till you are ready to plant, but write *now* for circular, with prices and full description of potatoes, that you may be able to *order early* and avoid delay and disappointment. Address

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I WILL sell the remainder of my stock of Onion Seed at reduced rates, viz: LARGE RED WEATHERSFIELD, $5.50; EARLY ROUND YELLOW DANVERS, $6.00. *I warrant every seed of every variety to be of the growth of* 1868, from good stock.

Farmers! you know that poor seed is dear even when it costs nothing; *these seed I warrant.* Catalogues of my own varieties (over one hundred of which I grew myself) sent gratis to all.

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GROUND without being burnt, for Fertilizing or for Fowls and for Walks. It consists of
Carbonate of Lime.....98.5 per ct.
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At wholesale and retail, by
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AND other choice FOWLS and EGGS for hatching by the setting. Enclose stamp for Circular, and address E. B. PERKINS, Salem, Mass. mar20-4t

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SUPERPHOSPHATE OF LIME,

In constant and successful use for 18 years past throughout the United States and Canadas, on all Crops, Plants, Soils, and in all seasons with wonderful results.

No Fish Guano, Land Plaster, or worthless Mineral Guanos,

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No baked, burned, or calcined bones being used, they therefore embody all the organic portion, furnishing abundant ammonia for the growth of all crops. Bones, in their raw or natural state, contain 33 per cent of animal matter, or gelatin, (which again contains about 7 per cent of pure ammonia,) and 55 per cent of phosphate of lime. In burned or roasted bones this rich nitrogenous matter has been lost. When bones are applied directly to the soil in a dry or unprepared state, they remain for a long time without decomposing; their valuable properties are rendered inoperative, and much valuable time and money are lost in awaiting their action on the crop, in order that bones may be applied to the best possible advantage to the farmer, it becomes necessary to prepare them in some way, so that, while the ammonia they contain may be appropriated as required by the plant, it shall not be wasted by volatilization, and that the phosphate of lime may in a proper degree be rendered available, that it may also enter readily into the composition of the growing crop. For these reasons, therefore, BAUGH'S PHOSPHATE is more valuable than any fertilizer sold in New England.

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Our new Patent Plough Clevis for *three horses abreast*, brings the team together and under the work, *accomplishing it easier and better* than four horses the old way.

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Holbrook's Patent Potato Digger, for Potatoes; to mellow the surface of ploughed land and cover manure. Harrington's Seed Sower and Cultivator, for Onions, Hollbrook's Patent Harrow, Rollers, &c. &c.

Made by E. P. HOLBROOK & SMAL',
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Agents for the CLIPPER MOWERS AND REAPERS. Farmers should call and *examine their superior points before buying any other. Send for Circulars.* mh20-6t

1 pound by mail, postage prepaid, $1.00
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1 peck, (15 pounds) - - - - 5.00
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1 barrel, ($3-4 bush—165 lbs.) - 40.00

☞ Cash to be sent with the order invariably.
☞ All orders packed and delivered at Express Office free, when our responsibility ceases.
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EARLY ROSE, one pound, $1.00; one peck, $5.00 Early Goodrich, one pound, $1.00; one peck, $5.00 productive of all early potatoes, and for quality is first rate. Four to five bushels amply enough to plant an acre. A fortnight earlier than Early Goodrich. *I warrant my seed to be true*, and will take all the responsibility of the crop.

Harrison per bushel.....$2.00; per barrel.....$4.50.
Early Goodrich do .... 1.50; do .... 4.00.
Chenango do .... 1.00; do .... 3.50.
Colebrook Seedling .... 1.50; do .... 4.50.

All of these I warrant true to name, the potatoes to be of good size and free from rot. Send for terms or call.

PHILBRICK'S EARLY WHITE, WESTERN CHIEF, and the EXCELSIOR are new kinds that I introduce this year at from 50 cents to $1.00 per pound. My catalogues with a full sized engraving of two of these and a full description, are now ready.

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Address all orders

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REAL ESTATE
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E. S. CONVERSE, Esq., Prest. Malden Bank.
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A FULL BLOODED AYRSHIRE HEIFER CALF, or a pair, (Bull and Heifer) at least six weeks old when taken. J. Z. GORDON,
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Choice Poultry,

SEED OATS and POTATOES, for sale by
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A HERD BOOK AYRSHIRE BULL, two or three years old. Address the subscriber at Exeter, N. H., giving name of the animal, price, &c.
mh20- C. N. HEALEY.

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ONE lb. EARLY ROSE sent by mail, postpaid, $1, 4 lbs. EARLY ROSE, sent by mail, postpaid, $3.00. Best SPRING WHEAT in the world; the earliest and most productive. CORN: wonderful yielding OATS—the white and black—weighing 48 pounds to the bushel; SPRING BARLEY; GRASS SEEDS; FOWLS; EGGS; HOGS; the great FEED CUTTER.

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Subscribe if you want to make your Farm pay.
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Every one should try this most desirable variety.
One package, sufficient for fifty hills, 50 cents. Five packages $2.00. By mail, prepaid.

JOS. BRECK & SON,
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Early Rose Potatoes.

BY Mail, post paid, 75 cents per pound, 5 lbs. $2 50. Strawberry Plants, Jucunda, $6 00 per hundred, 50 cents per dozen. Early Scarlet, $2 00. Methven Brooklyn, Scarlet, Hovey's, Agriculturist, Wilson, $1 00. Franconia Raspberry, $3 00 per hundred, or 30 cents per dozen. Dorchester Blackberry, $3 00 per hundred. Walter Grape, choice, one year old, $5 00, two years old, $10 00 apiece. Asparagus Roots, 2 years old, $1 00 per hundred.

WM. GARDNER PRESCOTT,
mh20-4t Quincy, Mass.

Norway Oats.

THE Subscribers have succeeded in obtaining a small supply of this

REMARKABLE OAT

which gave such unprecedentated satisfaction last year at the following rates—40 cents per peck, 75 cents per quart by mail prepaid $4 per peck, $6 per half bushel, $10 per bushel.

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UNION PACIFIC
RAILROAD
ARE NOW COMPLETED.

As 534 miles of the western portion of the line, beginning at Sacramento, are also done, but

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To be Finished, to Open the Grand Through Line to the Pacific. This Opening will certainly take place early this season.

Besides a donation from the Government of 12,800 acres of land per mile, the Company is entitled to a subsidy in U. S. Bonds on its line as completed and accepted, at the average rate of about $26,000 per mile, according to the difficulties encountered, for which the Government takes a second lien as security. Whether subsidies are given to any other companies or not, the Government will comply erith all its contracts with the Union Pacific Railroad Company. Nearly the whole amount of bonds to which the Company will be entitled have already been delivered.

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By its charter, the Company is permitted to issue its own FIRST MORTGAGE BONDS to the same amount as the Government Bonds, *and no more*. These Bonds are a First Mortgage upon the entire road and all its equipments.

THEY HAVE THIRTY YEARS TO RUN AT SIX PER CENT., and, by special contract, both

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ARE
PAYABLE IN GOLD.

The U. S. Supreme Court has recently decided that this contract is in all respects valid and of legal obligation.

Such securities are generally valuable in proportion to the length of time they have to run. The longest six per cent. gold interest bonds of the U. S. (the 81's) will will be due in 12 years, and they are worth 112. If they had 30 years to run, they would stand at not less than 123. A perfectly safe First Mortgage Bond like the Union Pacific should approach this rate. The demand for European investment is already considerable, and on the completion of the work will doubtless carry the price to a large premium.

SECURITY OF THE BONDS.

It needs no argument to show that a First Mortgage of $26,500 per mile upon what for a long time must be the only railroad connecting the Atlantic and Pacific States is PERFECTLY SECURE. The entire amount of the mortgage will be about $30,000,000, and the interest $1,800,000 per annum in gold. The present currency cost of this Interest is less than $2,300,000 per annum, while the gross earnings for the year 1868, FROM WAY BUSINESS only, on *AN AVERAGE OF LESS THAN 700 MILES OF ROAD IN OPERATION, WERE MORE THAN*

FIVE MILLION DOLLARS,

The details of which are as follows:

From Passengers	$1,024,005 97
" Freight	2,040,233 19
" Express	51,423 08
" Mails	136,253 59
" Miscellaneous	91,626 27
" Government freight	104,977 17
" freight	449,440 33
" Contractors' men	201,179 09
" material	966,439 32
Total	$5,006,653 61

This large amount is only an indication of the immense traffic that must go over the through line in a few months, when the great tide of Pacific coast travel and trade will begin. It is estimated that this business must make the earnings of the road from *FIFTEEN TO TWENTY MILLIONS A YEAR.*

As the supply of these Bonds will soon cease, parties who desire to invest in them will find it for their interest to do so at once. The price for the present is par and accrued interest from Jan. 1, in currency.

Subscriptions will be received in Boston by

MATTHEW BOLLES & CO, 90 State Street,
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*STONE & DOWNER,

MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN AND NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE.---BOSTON, SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 1869.

The Poet's Corner.

LIFE'S LOT.

I know not if the dark or bright
Shall be my lot;
If that wherein my soul delight
Be best or not.

It may be mine to drag for years
Toil's heavy chain;
Or day and night my meat be tears
On bed of pain.

Dear faces may surround my hearth
With smiles and glee;
Or I may dwell alone, and mirth
Be strange to me.

My bark is wafted to the strand
By breath Divine,
And on the helm there rests a hand
Other than mine.

One who has known in storms to sail
I have on board;
Above the raging of the gale
I hear my Lord.

He holds me midst the billows' might—
I shall not fall;
If sharp, 'tis short; if long, 'tis light:
He tempers all.

Safe to the land—safe to the land,
The end is this;
And then with Him go hand in hand,
Far into bliss.

—*Dean of Canterbury.*

Ladies' Department.

Written for the Massachusetts Ploughman.

KITTY AND KATE.

WHICH WAS CATHARINE?

BY H. M. L.

It was hot and oppressive, one of those Indian summer days which takes us so by surprise, and which, coming after the bracing air of cool weather brings with it so much of lassitude.

I had been at Seaview a few days, for though late in the season the hotels were not yet deserted, and with the evening paper and choice Havana had wended my way to the beach, to get, if possible, a little sea breeze, read the news and commune with nature.

It is said that one is never so much alone as in a crowded city, but I felt the loneliness to be almost as great in the public parlors of of the Ocean House, where evening after evening strange faces gathered together, criticized the new comers and toyed away the hours with all the idle chit-chat of our modern society, at once so frivolous and enervating. But here, on the beach, one finds constant companionship. All day long old ocean had rested in calm, scarce a ripple disturbed its surface, the white sail stood out at sea as idly as a painted ship upon a painted ocean," the plash of the wave was in gentle cadence, the whole scene breathed repose. But now a breeze seemed to be rising, the sails rounded out and neared the shore, the waves, crimsoned by the setting sun, seemed aglow with life as if the great deep had shaken off his drowse and become awake.

"Its waves were kneeling on the strand
As kneels the human knee,
Their white locks bowing to the sand
The priesthood of the sea."

A bachelor of two score years is scarce expected to have much sentiment, yet I could not but acknowledge an occasional cropping out of the same, and so for a season I gave myself up to reflection, drawing in my mind the analogy between the heart of man and the moods of the sea, until time and place were forgotten in the throng of memories thus awakened from the long dead past. Day deepened, anon stars bloomed out on the deep azure, the waves murmured their vesper hymn and night reigned o'er all.

The last hop of the season was to come off that evening, and inwardly reproaching myself for thus dreaming away the hours, I picked up my unread paper and hastened back to my room, where the lamps being lighted I seated myself in my chair to read in good earnest:

MARRIED.—In N——, by Rev. Dr. Tracey, Arthur Lynde, Esq., to Catharine, daughter of the late Amos Braddish, of this city.

Thus it read, there could be no mistaking it, as plain as paper and ink could make it.

What was it to me, do you ask? I scarcely knew, only an indefinable sense of pain came slowly to me and settled heavily down upon my spirits. There was the printed story, and strive as I would I could not rid myself of the fact that my old tried friend, the strong, true hearted, womanly girl, whose society I had so often courted and whose friendship I so much prized, had passed from me without a word or sign to share the name and fame of another. I had no right to feel thus, for never word of mine had breathed an interest to her of more than friendly import, nor had my vanity ever detected in her more than a sisterly regard.

Let me explain the facts of the case:—Catharine Braddish, or Kate, as I had always called her, was an orphan girl who had spent much of her time with an aunt in my native town. There my acquaintance with her began, and during many a wintry evening her calm good sense, clear judgment, and richly cultured mind held me captive, while through the long summer twilights and in the silvery sheen of the moon, we clambered along the shore, resting awhile on some wave worn rock and in mutual confidence, serious oft-times and oft in gayer mood, held converse together. We were not lovers, but in the truest sense were we friends, and though I had not seen her for many months, I had had not a doubt till now that the same heart beat as loyally to the old friendship as ever. Often had she spoken to me of Arthur Lynde, and with glowing cheek and eye bright, with enthusiasm enlarged upon the noble and manly character of her school fellow and ever since friend. Kitty, her sister, she said, was equally fond of him, and when I rallied her upon her fervor, she laughingly rejoined she should leave Kitty an uncontested field.

At N——, her home, she always lived since her parent's death, and thither Kate had been gone for some time, while business matters keeping me on the move in various directions had served also to keep me in ignorance of all the chances and changes of acquaintance and friends.

And now this news of Kate had come to me just as I was en route to visit her, for N. was only the next town and the early morning was to have seen me on my way. I say was, for now my plans seemed not so fixed, a troubled unrest seemed settling upon me, as imagination pictured her another's friend and wife, and hastening away from my thoughts, I sought the dancers in the hall below, there striving to banish the feeling for which I had no name and could not account.

All the elite of the neighboring towns were expected to grace the occasion, and it was not strange if among the beauty and fashion that moved before me in the many dances, I gazed with expectant curious eyes to see if one who occupied my every present thought was not among them.

I had not long to wait, for soon, during an intermission, I saw, promenading the hall, a gentleman, tall and graceful in stature, of dignified mien, with a lady on either arm. They were at once recognized as Kate, her husband and Kitty. The evening before I should have pressed forward, greeted my old friends, and saved myself, perhaps, some disquietude, but now shielding myself from observation, I prepared to take notes and if need be retire.

"Ned," said a young gallant to another near him, "who is that gentleman and who the ladies with him coming towards us?"

"What a superb creature with lavender silk and white lace trimmings! The other is certainly very presentable."

"Yes, but looks like a woman who has a mind of her own, and for a woman, give me a soft girlish thing, that I can mould to my own liking and who will yield me unquestioning allegiance."

"Tut, tut, young man," chimed in an elderly gentleman, "you expect too much, but I think I can inform you who the party under criticism are; Mr. Lynde, a promising young lawyer of N——, his bride and her sister; they have been married about a fortnight and are just returned from Niagara. I saw the marriage in this evening's paper. Rather a tardy appearance, to be sure, but these notices are sometimes a good while in being copied."

"I suppose the one in white with pearl ornaments is the bride," suggested the first speaker.

"I take it so," continued the old gentleman; "and if so, wise has been his choice; for though the other has the most faultless features, it is the beauty of the chisel merely, while this one bears the impress of soul upon her face, which is the highest type of beauty, aye, the expression of Divinity itself."

Kate was dressed in white, and I waited to hear no more, but undiscovered, sought the privacy of my own room.

There are months and years in life which seem to have no event in them, so calm and equable their flow; there are days and hours so fraught with meaning that our life is ever after tinged by their bright or shaded hue. So the knowledge of my heart which the present had revealed, I felt would sadden and embitter my whole future.

Bachelors, hard and cynical as they are usually represented, have each their little dream of romance, all unrealized it may be forever, but still a bright, hallowed place in imagination, to which when thought is purest, they often repair.

Like others, I had had my sentimental musings, and had pictured as the light and life of my future home, my own ideal woman. A creature of beauty and witching grace, a soft, pliant, yielding heart, that would worship my virtues and be blind to my faults, with mind enough to acknowledge me head, and observation sufficient to pass well in society. Nor did it occur to my vanity, that, being a plain man, a woman of such manifold attractions might pass me by on the other side. Wealth, position, might buy me a wife, as is bought the Circassian slave, but of myself alone, could I hope to win my desire? I confess, I had not thought of it.

It was a boyish fancy truly, but manhood's cares had weighed heavy upon me, leaving little time for sentiment, and so the same picture had hung in my gallery till now, when the news of Kate's marriage, reviving so many memories of her genuine womanliness, made me to realize in stronger light than before that an ideal drawn in lines of grace and beauty alone, however glorified by love, could never satisfy, without its complement in character and soul communion.

The thought of what might have been, saddest of all thoughts at times, mocked at my heart, as hour after hour I paced my room in loneliness, seeking no rest till the stars paled before the light of coming day.—But during those still hours my resolve had been taken that none should ever know my secret, and cost what it might of inward struggle, the friendship of so many years should still be preserved in its outward semblance, till the fires which burned beneath it calmed into a purer flame, and the old relations were the same again.

Oh, night! so solemn, so mysterious! under thy influence what inspiration fills the soul; how high the purpose, how lofty the resolve, how resigned the heart! But day, with its stir of busy life, brings us down to our own level, dissipates our dreams of moral greatness, and causes the resolutions which waxed so strong and brave under the starlit sky, to falter and wane with the dawn.

Morning found me irresolute, doubting my strength to appear my old natural self, and strongly inclined to turn back without a visit to N——. But after a deal of mental struggle my first resolution triumphed, and that evening found me with trembling heart at Mr. Lynde's house, having rung for admission. To the servant in attendance I gave my card, inquiring for Mrs. Lynde, and was ushered into the drawing-room. I had not the time to wait, for a step tripping through the hall came a well remembered step, and Kate, in the old sisterly way, gave me a cordial greeting. I felt my manner to her to be constrained, and so was glad when, saying she should not make a stranger of me, she proposed our joining Mr. Lynde in the library, for I feared a *tete-a-tete* with her, of all things.

Never can I forget my first impression of that room, so cheerful, so cosy, so eminently homelike. The October night had a chill of autumn without, but tempered within by the ruddy heat and light which glowed from the open fire-place. Ivies trained around pictures and on the walls lent grace and beauty, a wealth of books from floor to ceiling, filled an arch built for the purpose, rare gems of art in painting and statuary cultivated the taste, while the furniture robed in classical green and luxurious style, matched the curtains, whose heavy drapery swept the floor, bidding defiance to curious eyes of the outer world.

Barry Cornwall was right, I thought; there is a place for—

"Hope and health and learned leisure,
Books, friends, thy thoughts,"

and I have found it.

Mr. Lynde rose on my entrance, and cordially welcomed me, saying he had often heard me spoken of and was glad of a personal acquaintance. Kitty, he said, had retired early, having a severe headache, but he trusted my stay in town would warrant another call; she would be sorry not to see me. As they sat there together, he before the study table, and she on a low ottoman, near him, I could not but acknowledge, jealous as I was, that they seemed fitted for each other. There was about him a certain indefinable high bred air, a polish of manner and quiet dignity rarely met with, while the more he said the more convinced I felt of his weight of character.

Judged by the artist's eye, she was far from faultless, but to me, her fine expressive face, which mirrored forth every shade of feeling, has since passed upon and has ever womanly manner had a beauty all their own.

We talked of mutual friends, reviewed past pleasures, critized the books I had been reading, but never once alluded to that which was nearest my heart, and even when I rose to go, with all my efforts at congratulation, which I had thought to reserve till the last moment; the words refused to do my bidding, and so with a cool good evening, leaving my address, and promising to call again, I left the house.

Fool, dolt that I was, ever to have gone there, I muttered to myself as the door closed upon me. What will they think of me, and what excuse can I ever offer for my rudeness? The veriest civility offered by common acquaintance and yet denied by me, the friend of years. True, she said nothing to me of her new relations, and might I not charge her with a want of confidence in not confiding to me her hopes, or after their fruition, failing to speak of them?

Yes, I had my cue and would act upon it, despite the accusing voice within, bemoaning the dishonesty.

My lodgings reached, I strove in vain with Morpheus for sleep, sweet sleep, but ever as I tossed and turned upon my restless couch, memories of the past, thoughts of what might have been, and the realities of the present crowded thick and fast upon me, while

"Thought on thought, a countless throng
Rushed hurrying countless thoughts along."

Towards morning I fell into a troubled, dreamy sleep, from which I awoke at an early hour unrefreshed and miserable.

Having breakfasted and run through the morning paper, I was sitting in my room making plans for the day, when a knock at the door aroused me, and directly after a little curly headed boy handed in a note with "please wait, a man below wants to know if you're here and that's all;" I told him I was here and he might say so. The note was from Kate, I knew it at a glance, and hastily tearing the envelope found it to be an invitation to the house for that evening, a little company of Kitty's friends only to be present.

Before putting it away I read it again. It was simple enough, commencing "my old friend William," and signing herself simply "Kate,"—but the initial letter stamped upon the note paper arrested my attention, there it was, a plain old English H—the very self same style she had always used. For a moment a new hope glimmered in my heart that I might be mistaken in the marriage, only to be speedily dispelled by the thought that the note was hastily written, and this paper remaining in her writing desk, was used without being noticed.

Of course I must go, cost what it might, and at an early hour, I found myself in Mr. Lynde's drawing room—Kitty was very glad to see me, rallied me on being still a bachelor, introduced me to some young lady friends, whispering in my ear to improve the moments, and so left me to play the agreeable, and what harder task could she have given me?

Kate appearing soon after took me with her to admire a *chef-d'œuvre* in art which Mr. L—— had just procured, and so thinking the moment opportune when another subject of interest, I had just screwed my courage up to speak of her marriage as another rich gem added to Mr. L——'s home, when a chit of sixteen joining us, began volubly to descant upon art in general and this painting in particular. So it was all up with me, and taking a seat in one of the cushioned recesses I soon had my attention arrested and intensified by a conversation near me.

"How charming Mrs. L. is to-night," said the gentleman.

"Yes, a good deal of doll beauty," rejoined the lady, "but I should have thought Miss Braddish would have been his choice."

"She is something of a *bas bleu*, I believe, and he being literary would perhaps choose his opposite, eh, Miss Laura?"

"Such things are said to be, though I doubt the fitness, but the strangest thing about these sisters is their similarity of names, Kitty and Kate. There should have been a third to have named her Catharine; soberly though, there must have been a reason for it, some romance perhaps."

"You ladies are always on the *qui vive* for a new revelation; what wonderful imaginations you have forsooth! Any man with a polished air and serious face, if a stranger to you, might readily pass for an exiled count or lord, and oh, the sentiment that would be wasted and the pretty fancies rife about my gentleman's valet, or worse yet, a practised leader of housebreakers."

"You are too bad, Mr. Allen"

"Well, I happen to know the history of these names, for I will acknowledge I was struck by them, and so remarking to Mr. Lynde, he gave me this explanation: Mr. Braddish, the father of the ladies, married late in life, having previously divided his time between his two sisters Catharine and Kate, thus named from their being twins, for with some people these anomalies must not only look alike and dress alike, but be named as nearly alike as possible, on purpose to bewilder I believe. When his first daughter was born, his love for his two sisters being equal and each desirous for a namesake, they drew lots for the choice, and so the child was christened Kate, with the promise that if Providence again blessed him with a daughter, she should be called Catharine. And so in due time the old couplet of names was complete.

"Mr. Braddish and his wife both died when the girls were young, and so Miss Kate went to live with her aunt Kate at L——, and Catharine remained here with her aunt of the same name, where she won the heart of my classmate Arthur Lynde, married him, and aunt Kate having previously died, invited her sister to live with her, and that is the end of the chapter."

"But Mrs. Lynde they call Kitty, is her real name Catharine?"

Did ever man arraigned at the bar of justice, await with more intensity of hope and fear the final sentence, than I to hear that question answered?

It came simply, and naturally—"Yes."

Oh, words, what a world of meaning ye have locked up in your simple forms, what histories gather about your yea and nay—what inspiration are ye of thought, and deed and life!

I waited upon Kate to the refreshment room, and wondered that I could have been so blind as not before to have known which of the sisters was Mrs. L——. But an introverted gaze such as mine had been, realizes naught but the throbbing of its own heart. And now a new hope thrilled in my veins, and as I walked with her out on the moonlit verandah, I asked the most serious question which a man can put to woman. "Kate, will you be my wife?" And she with the frankness of a noble nature, without one touch of coquetry replied—"God helping me, I will."

There are moments of our lives so raised above the level of our commoner living, that they must ever be enshrined in our thought as the holy of holies; unto them let no profane foot approach, and around them ever more let fall the veil of sanctity.

* * * * *

We were married, Kate and I, a simple sober wedding in the presence of a few tried friends, with none of the pomp and pageantry practised by vulgar minds. Years have passed since then—checkered years with no human life must ever be, but through all chance and change we have walked shoulder to shoulder and heart to heart.

Youthful fancy represents marriage as an end. It is but a beginning. The rosy dreams of romance may pale as we cross its threshold, but life, strong, active, earnest life, lies over the border.

Love and friendship grow by desire. We seek to draw near to each other, to discover some new vein of character, to receive from day to day some new thought or sentiment, but when full knowledge comes we find no joy in possession.

A woman of shallow nature could never have bound me. The daily intercourse and close acquaintance of marriage, bringing with it no higher thought than physical comfort, would have mocked me with barrenness and proved—

"Like apples on the Dead Sea shore,
All ashes to the taste."

But Kate is a royal woman, the added years have given grace to her character and ripeness to her judgment. Day by day we draw nearer to each other in mutual confidence and soul communion, gaining new knowledge of each other and ourselves. And as we turn our faces towards life's evening sky, nearing the vale of shadows, we trust in faith, that we may walk through the "Gates Ajar," hand in hand forevermore, as the angels of God.

JUSTICE.

Carlyle says in this God's world; with its whirling eddies and mad foam oceans, where men and nations perish, as if without law and judgment, for an unjust thing is sternly delayed, dost thou think that there is therefore no justice? It is what the fool has said in his heart. It is what the wise in all times were wise because they denied and knew forever not to be. I tell thee again there is nothing else but justice; one strong thing I find here below—the just thing, the true thing. My friend, if thou hadst all the artillery of Woolwich marching at thy back in support of an unjust thing, and infinite bonfires visibly waiting ahead of thee to blaze centuries to come for thy victory on behalf of it, I would advise thee to call Halt, to fling down thy baton and say, "In God's name, no!" What will thy success amount to? If the thing is unjust, thou has not succeeded, though bonfires blazed from north to south, and bells rang, and editors wrote long articles, and the just thing lay trampled out of sight to all mortal eyes, an abolished and an annihilated thing.

☞ Punch says: "If you are a wise man you will treat the world as the moon treats it. Show it only one side of yourself, seldom show yourself too much at a time, and let what you show be calm, cool and polished. But look at every side of the world."

Domestic Economy.

VALUABLE RECIPES.

FROM LADY CONTRIBUTORS.

RAISIN CAKE.—One cup of butter, three of sugar, three eggs, six cups of flour, two nutmegs, one teaspoonful of saleratus, one cup of milk, one pound of raisins or currants.

FEATHER CAKE.—Two cups of sugar, butter the size of an egg, three eggs, one cup of milk, one teaspoon of cream tartar, half a teaspoon of soda, three cups of flour, flavor with lemon. Bake twenty minutes.

Anecdotes.

☞ At one of the preliminary meetings of the Irish societies in regard to the celebration of St. Patrick's day, there was considerable discussion about shortening the route of the procession. An excited little Hibernian, who had listened impatiently for some time, finally jumped up, like a cork out of a beer bottle, and delivered himself as follows:

"Misther Chairman, if there's anny thing to be left out uv the perceshun, I hope it 'ill be to lave out thim dirthy South Boston bridges. There's no houses on thim bridges—and no windys and no gurruls to wave their handkerchiefs; an' surr, if we are to go to South Boston I move you, surr, that the committee be instructed to *lave out thim bridges.*"

As "lavin out thim bridges" would have involved a journey through Roxbury and Dorchester, the gentleman's motion was not entertained, but the route was shortened in true Irish style by taking off four streets in one section of the city and putting on five in another.—*Bulletin.*

NOT MARRIED.—In one of the courts a few days since, a very pretty young lady appeared as a witness. Her testimony was likely to result unfavorably for the client of a pert young lawyer, who addressed her very superciliously with the inquiry:

"You are married, I believe."

"No, sir."

"Oh! only about to be married?"

"No sir."

"Only wish to?"

"Really, I don't know. Would you advise such a step?"

"Oh, certainly! I am a married man myself."

"Is it possible? I never should have thought it. Is your wife blind or deaf?"

It is scarcely necessary to add, that the discomfitted attorney did not vouchsafe a reply.

CAN'T BE DONE.—"Going to leave?" "Yes, mum; I find I am werry discontented." "If there is anything I can do to make you comfortable, let me know." "M-misus, it's impossible! You can't alter your figger to my figger, no more'n I can. Your dresses won't fit me, and I can't appear on Sundays as I used to do at my old place, where missus's clothes fitted exactly."

☞ "Why do you drive such a pitiful-looking carcass as that for? Why don't you put a heavy coat of flesh on him?" asked a friend of an Irish cartman about his horse. "A heavy coat of flesh, mavourneen! He all the blessed powers, now, when the poor creature can scarce carry the little flesh there is on 'in!"

☞ Judge——, who is between seventy and eighty, speaks pleasantly of the passing away of the "old school gentlemen." Says he: "I was born at the wrong time. When I was a young man, young men were of no account—now I am old I find old men are of no account."

☞ A white boy met a colored lad the other day, and asked him what he had such a short nose for. "I spects so it won't poke itself into other people's business."

RED KNIFE;

—OR,—

KIT CARSON'S LAST TRAIL.

By LEON LEWIS,

AUTHOR OF "THE WAGON TRAIN," "THE WITCH FINDER," "THE WATER WOLF," ETC. ETC.

CHAPTER I.

A LIFE GLORIOUSLY STAKED.

Towards the close of a beautiful day in June, 1867, a man and woman, mounted upon fleet horses, came galloping over one of the great plains of the West, and drew rein in the shade of a clump of cotton woods upon the bank of a beautiful river. They had ridden far and rapidly. Their steeds were panting, and covered with sweat and foam.

"We must give the horses a breathing spell," said the former, slipping to the ground; and his companion nodded a graceful assent, as she followed his example.

The couple were evidently father and daughter.

The man was in the prime of life, hale and hearty, with a large frame, which was sinewy and athletic, without ceasing to be refined and prepossessing. He had the keen, shrewd look peculiar to the advance-guards of civilization, and there was an honest, frank expression on his sun-browned face, that proclaimed his integrity and courage.

In her way, his daughter was equally picturesque and attractive.

In the early flush of womanhood, with a pure, sweet, and tender face, with eyes darkly glowing, with coral-tinted lips, and cheeks softly flushed with the hue of the rose, with amber curls flowing behind her, she was as graceful as a gazelle, as light-hearted as a bird, as lovely as a flower, and as spirited as an untamed antelope.

The stream by which the couple had halted was Wood river, a branch of the Platte, in Nebraska, at a point fifty miles northwest of Fort Kearny.

"Are you tired, Miriam?" asked the hunter, George Dane, with fatherly solicitude.

"Tired, father?" rejoined the maiden, with a happy laugh. "Oh, no. How could I be tired after a day like this? Every minute has been filled with pleasure and excitement. I feel as fresh as yonder bird."

The father smiled understandingly, with a look full of the fondest affection.

"I can guess the cause of your lightness of heart,' said he, smilingly. 'The return, now daily expected, of a certain Hubert Earle, from the mines of Idaho, may account, I suspect, for your present gladness."

A heightened color appeared on Miriam's face, for the name mentioned was that of her lover.—She answered the glances of her father, however, with a frankness that attested his entire sympathy with her, and said:

"True, father, my heart has been unusually light for several days past. How could it be otherwise, since I know that Hubert is coming?"

Mr. Dane did not reply. He was looking, with kindling eyes, over the fair flower-dotted plain; and the next moment showed how widely his thoughts had strayed.

"I wonder what mother has been doing without us all day, Miriam. She must be lonely, with no one to speak to or share the solitude with. I wonder if we could see our home from this point,' and his face lighted up with a soulfull glow. 'Our cottage is not more than seven miles distant, I believe me!'

He drew from his coat a pocket-glass, adjusted it to his sight, pointing it in a northerly direction and gazed upon it long and earnestly, towards his rancho upon Carrey's Fork.

'Yes, I see it,' he said at last, with a long, deep, and joyful inspiration, as if the sight revealed him in every nerve. 'There is our cottage, as plain as day. I can even see the vines you planted before the windows, Miriam. And there, on the grape-vine bench, under the big elm, sits your mother, busy at her sewing. Bless her! She does not imagine we are looking at her. Look, Miriam.'

He yielded the instrument to his daughter, who obeyed the instruction, her lovely face glowing with smiles as she regarded the distant home scene.

'Dear mother!' she murmured. 'It is a treat to her to be able to sit out under the trees without fear of molestation. There are no hostile Indians hereabouts now—are there, father?'

'No. Red Knife, as you have already heard, was killed yesterday by a settler, and his band has retreated towards the mountains. I will confess, Miriam, that during all the time we have been in the West, I have not felt so light-hearted and care-free as since we received news of Red Knife's death. You have just seen how this joy bubbles over in me. Red Knife was a demon rather than a man.'

Miriam shuddered and her features even paled at the memory of the Indian mentioned.

'He never spared a pale face,' she said, striving to speak lightly. 'Donation will crush the marked his path. For more than three years he has ranged to and fro upon the plains like a ravening wolf. He was the terror of the border.'

'You have named him appropriately, Miriam,' said the hunter. 'He had a fiendish hatred of the white race, and his victims have been many.'

Mr. Dane held out his hand for the glass, and Miriam was in the act of replacing it in his strange, gasping, panting sound, startled them both, and sent them quickly to their saddles.

The hunter wheeled his horse and looked down upon the river bank, from which issued the sound had come, his manner self-possessed, but his countenance indicative of alarm. The maiden followed his example.

Her eyes were the first to discover the cause of the sound that had startled them, detecting a man's figure creeping along through the undergrowth of bushes lining the shore.

At the same moment, their presence in turn was detected, for the man dropped suddenly among the protecting bushes, as if he had been shot.

'An Indian!' whispered Miriam, drawing from her bosom a revolver.

The hunter shook his head, continuing to watch the spot at which the rustling had taken hand on his rifle, his manner that of one ready

Suddenly, as the man showed a haggard face, peering cautiously from his concealment, Mr. Dane's anxious countenance broke into a smile, and he cried out:

"Hallo! Is that you, Thompson? Do you take us for Indians, that you skulk there in the bushes?"

The individual addressed was silent a full minute, as if overcome from sheer amazement; and he sprang out from his hiding place with a cry of relief, and advanced swiftly towards the father and daughter.

He was a man of middle age, of the ordinary type of backwoodsmen, strong and brown and stalwart, of the rude, rough type that seems to belong to the border. His face was haggard and white, although covered with perspiration. His breath came through his parted lips in quick, uneven gasps. He had run far and swiftly, and looked as if about to drop with fatigue.

"What has happened, Thompson?" asked Dane, with keen anxiety, the man's singular appearance giving him a shock of alarm.

"The Indians!" gasped Thompson, scarcely able to command his voice. 'They are coming! Red Knife and his band—divided—my wife—my children! What talk is this?' cried Dane, agitated in spite of his efforts at self control. 'Red Knife was killed yesterday—'

'He was only wounded,' interrupted Thompson. 'He is coming to take his vengeance on us settlers. He has divided his band into two. They were up at the Deer Fork this morning, and are now coming this way. The points to be struck are your house and mine.'

'My God!' ejaculated Dane, as his informant paused in his excited, breathless narration.

'A horse! a horse!' cried Thompson, reeling with fatigue. 'I can go no further on foot. My wife, my children—God pity and save them!'

He looked from the hunter to his daughter in agonized and mute supplication.

Dane snatched the glass from Miriam's hands and placed it to his eyes.

He looked to the far northward—saw his pretty cottage, his wife busy at her needle under the trees—and glanced at the dim line of the horizon stretching away eastward and westward from his home.

Suddenly the glass dropped from his hands—his face blanched to the hue of snow. From the west, seeming to emerge from the clouds of scarlet and gold he had beheld a band of mounted Indians riding boldly towards that unprotected home, towards that unconscious and helpless woman.

With a frenzied cry, he put spurs to his horse, and dashed away like a madman, shouting to his daughter to follow him; at the same instant Thompson staggered forward and fell in the maiden's path, holding up his hands in anguish.

'My wife! my children!' he groaned.

There was no hesitation in the soul of the brave Miriam.

'Mine is but a single life; he has seven depending on him,' she said, aloud.

As she spoke, she leaped from her saddle, and, with a gesture, commanded him to take her place.

'But—your danger!' faltered Thompson. 'The Indians—'

Miriam again mounted to the saddle.

'Go,' she commanded. 'Think only of your family, and be gone!'

Still Thompson hesitated, sweeping the horison with eager glances, to assure himself that no immediate danger threatened. A change came over his face as he looked, and he uttered a wild cry, catching up the glass Mr. Dane had let fall, and looking through it.

The sight he beheld convulsed him with terror.

Not a mile away, to the west, he saw coming over a ridge in the plain, and approaching rapidly, a considerable body of mounted savages.

'They're coming—a band of red-skins—directly towards us!' he gasped. 'I'm lost! Fly, Miriam while you have the time!'

The maiden took the glass and gazed through it an instant at the approaching foe. A strange light appeared in her eyes—a light possessed only by those upon whom God has bestowed a consciousness of His great protection—the light of a heroism which death itself cannot master.

"Sure enough,' she murmured. 'They are coming! The leader is Red Knife. Go, neighbor Thompson—on the instant!'

'We will take together!' cried Thompson.

'No! The horse is tired. We have been to Willow Island. We should be overtaken before we had gone two miles!'

'Then we'll die together!'

With a grasp so sudden and firm that it startled him the maiden pushed him towards the horse and in another instant he found himself, borne by instinct than by thought, seated in the saddle.

'Away, Selim!' cried Miriam to her steed, with an imperative gesture. 'Away!'

The horse broke furiously over the plain, giving Thompson only time enough to flash a look of gratitude towards the maiden, as he dashed away to the northeast, towards his menaced home.

A moment later, Mr. Dane looked over his shoulder—took in at a glance the situation of affairs, recognizing the peril as well as the heroism of the child—bowed his head solemnly, as one submits to the inevitable, in approbation of her conduct, and then he swept on to the rescue of his wife, his soul torn by such emotions as are seldom brought to battle together.

And Miriam, throwing herself flat upon the ground, remained alone upon the plain, in the very path of a score of mounted Indians, who were galloping towards her with the swiftness of the wind!

CHAPTER II.

A CURIOUS AND STARTLING MYSTERY.

Skirting the Black Hills, forty miles west of Fort Laramie, a party of horsemen were riding eastward.

They had left Fort Bridger eight days before, taking the route of the North Platte, and were now following the Oregon emigrant road, among those long ridges, dry beds of rivers, and sterile plains, by which the region of the Black Hills is distinguished.

The bulk of the party consisted of ten cavalry man under a lieutenant, who were returning to Fort Laramie, their post of duty. They were well mounted, and had several led horses in their train, loaded with their provisions and appurtenances of travel.

The balance of the party comprised three civilians, who had seized the opportunity of crossing the mountains under military escort. Two of these were emigrants who had settled near Fort Bridger, but who had tired of the great solitude, or been frightened by the Indians, and were now returning eastward in search of homes nearer the haunts of civilization.

The third civilian was Herbert Earle, the lover of Miriam Dane, the settler's daughter, whom we have just left in such deadly peril.

He was a splendid specimen of American manhood, magnificently formed, broad shouldered, deep-chested, as vigorous as an athlete, and rode his horse, a fiery Mexican steed, with the grace and ease of a Centaur.

At the moment of his introduction to the reader, he was riding in the rear of the little train, busy with his own reflections, which were evidently as bright as the morning itself—the forenoon preceding the events we have recorded.

His thoughts were wrapt in the sweet memory of Miriam, who had wept so bitterly at his departure, and who, he expected, would smile so joyously at his return.

"The dear little soul!" he murmured aloud. 'Where is she now?'

His eyes darkened with tender sweetness, his lips quivered with the ineffable love that flooded his being with a happiness akin to pain. He pictured their meeting, the pretty home they would share together, the years they would spend in each other's society, the tender mutual love and care that would bless all their coming days.

He had left the poor adventurer, to seek his fortunes among the mines of Idaho. He was returning to her a more than moderately rich man, with bills of exchange in his chamois money belt of sufficient value to support them both in luxury as long as they might live.

It was not to be wondered at that his thoughts were pleasant.

Suddenly he was aroused from his trance-like silence, by cries of delight from his companions, and by the fact that they had checked their speed.

Looking around him quickly, he beheld the cause of the unusual excitement. To the southward, at no great distance, a small herd of buffaloes were grazing lazily, seemingly not at all alarmed by the near presence of a formidable enemy.

The wind was blowing from them, the horses were fresh, and, as he looked at the tempting game, Herbert felt the spirit of the hunter grow strong within him.

Giving rein to his horse, he galloped along the line to speak to the lieutenant, but was met half way by that officer, whose sparkling eyes and eager demeanor attested to a kindling of Nimrodlike zeal.

"What do you say for an hour's sport, Mr. Earle?' shouted the lieutenant, as he bore down upon his friend, for Hubert was a decided favorite with every member of the party.

"I think it would be a downright shame to turn our backs on such splendid game,' was the quick response. 'Who could eat a dinner of salt pork, with those fat buffaloes so near us?'

The lieutenant smiled, glanced up and down the line, reading eager longing in the faces of his men, and resolved to carry out his own and the general desire.

At a word of command from him, the party set out at a quick gallop for the scene of action.

The buffaloes allowed the enemy to approach quite near, the wind favoring the hunters; but when the game caught the scent, they uneasily, to shake their heads, and to look for the cause of their apprehensions.

A moment later they had beheld the enemy, and, with frightful bellowings and mighty tramps had begun their wild, mad flight to the south ward.

The chase was a long one; and it was not till the hunters had run the buffaloes upon a spur of the Black Hills that they got a good chance at them. They then brought down several plump young buffaloes, and dinner became speedily the watchword.

"It is noon, and we'll have dinner," said the lieutenant, observing that the baggage animals with their drivers were approaching. "Kindle a fire, boys, and we'll have steaks and roasts in abundance."

While the order was being carried into effect, Hubert and several others were engaged in surveying the scene.

"A lonely and desolate spot," said Hubert, thoughtfully. "It looks as if man had never before visited it."

"And no wonder," returned Brydges, "since it's five miles off the route. What could any man want here, unless he might be in pursuit of buffaloes?"

There being no answer to this question, Hubert proceeded to find an excellent grazing spot for his horse, tethered him, and flung himself on the ground in the shadow of the hill. The lieutenant and a portion of the men followed his example.

Plenty of low bushes were found dry enough to burn, and several fires were soon kindled. Choicest portions of the buffaloes were readily prepared for cooking, and it was not long before the odor of burning flesh was diffused on the air; four or five hungry soldiers were at the cooks.

It was a wild picnic scene on those lonely wilds, and every man there enjoyed it with true gipsy zest.

Suddenly a shout from one of the men who were strolling around, arrested the attention of the others.

"Hallo, boys!" he cried. "I'm blest if here isn't a cave in the hill! Come, see the fun under these bushes. You never saw anything hidden nearer in your lives."

"Jones thinks nobody ever saw a cave before," said one of the loungers. "For my part, I think more of something to eat, than of a hole in the ground."

This sentiment was echoed by the others, but the inquisitive cave discoverer, nothing daunted, approached the fire, took from it a torch, returned to the bushes, parted the latter, and, casting a dark aperture in the face of the rock, and disappeared within it, his light giving back a yellow glare for a second after he had ceased to be seen.

If that fellow had found a gold mine in there he wouldn't call one of us,' growled the lounger who had before spoken. 'I wonder what Jones has found. I'll just take a look, as dinner isn't ready.'

He arose lazily, abstracted a stick of burning wood for a torch, proceeded to the cavern entrance, and disappeared from view.

'Probably,' said Hubert, 'there's a large cavern under that hill. If we had time, it might pay to explore it. Under the present circumstances, I am like Brown, and prefer my dinner to scientific explorations.'

The meal seemed to be nearly ready, for the rattling of tin cups and dishes began to be heard; the lieutenant's small camp chest was unpacked, and the cooks shouted to the strollers to come to dinner.

'Have Jones and Brown came back?' asked the lieutenant, as he rose to a sitting position, and looked towards the cave.

The men replied in the negative.

'Go after them then, King, and hurry them up,' said the officer. 'We must resume the march after dinner, and cannot afford to waste time here.'

King, a fine young soldier, did as he was bid, and entered the cave.

The dinner was dealt out—hot savory steaks and roasts—the coffee measured, and the meal commenced, but none of the men who had entered the cave made their appearance!

'How singular!' ejaculated Brydges, testily and impatiently. 'What can keep those men? King has been gone ten minutes. Here, Sergeant Halsey, hurry those men up!'

The sergeant, a brown, strong man of middle age, hesitated, and ventured to stammer:

'I beg your pardon, Lieutenant but I think there's something wrong inside the cave. There's three men in there—all hungry and knowing that dinner is ready. Surely they'd come back if they could. Perhaps there's wild beasts, or some strange gas that smothers 'em or—'

'Nonsense, Sergeant!' interrupted the lieutenant, frowning. 'I give you five minutes to bring those men back. Go!'

The sergeant's face paled, but, without another word, he took up a torch and entered the cave disappearing from the gaze of his friends.

The minutes passed, the lieutenant and the men ate their dinner mechanically, awaiting anxiously the expected return; yet none of the four came back.

The words of the sergeant had made a deep impression on the minds of his hearers. A general gloom fell upon the camp, and the men cast furtive and fearful glances in the direction of the cavern. Even the lieutenant and Hubert felt a strange depression creeping over them which neither could resist.

'What can be the matter?' at length demanded the officer. 'The sergeant's in trouble, I should judge, by this long absence. There can't be gas in the cave, or if so, he would probably have had the sense to cry out. No wild beasts, for those four men were all well armed, and would at least have fired. Which of all you men will go into the cave and learn what the matter is?'

There was a general shrinking back. Every soldier was brave in an Indian fight, but not one dared to face a mysterious and unknown danger. Not a man was willing to risk the complete and total disappearance from earth and human knowledge that had befallen his comrades.

Whoever will venture in search of the missing men shall receive from me a hundred dollars in gold!' exclaimed Hubert, in his clear, ringing tones. 'Who speaks first for the money?'

The offer was tempting; but it was not accepted. Not a word of reply was made to it.

Hubert hesitated, giving a brief thought to Miriam, his loved and waiting Miriam! His face then glowed with a heroic light, and he said, in tones that did not falter:

"I will go in search of the men, Lieutenant Brydges. Only, your party is now small, and if I do not return in twenty minutes, you may resume your journey."

'But, Earle,' expostulated the lieutenant, 'this is positive madness. You must not risk your life. We will wait a while, and if the men do not return, we will move on!'

'They may need help,' replied Hubert, steadily. 'They may have encountered—well, God knows what